

Gil J. Stein

In July–August 2008 **Gil J. Stein** began a new field project in Syria, the Joint Syrian-American excavations at Tell Zeidan. Tell Zeidan is a large, prehistoric site spanning the sixth through the

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fifth millennia B.C., that is, Halaf, Ubaid, and Late Chalcolithic 1–2 periods. Tell Zeidan seems to have been a major town or regional center in the Ubaid period, roughly 5300–4500 B.C. The excavations are seeking to understand how the Ubaid culture spread from its original homeland into neighboring areas such as north Syria, while also examining the social, political, and economic organization of Ubaid society. A fuller description of the excavations is presented in the *Tell Zeidan Project Report* in this *Annual Report*.

Gil has also been continuing with the analysis of materials from his 1992–97 excavations at the fourth-millennium B.C. town of Hacinebi, in the Euphrates Valley of southeast Turkey. Hacinebi was a local Anatolian town where merchants from the Uruk culture of southern Mesopotamia established a trading colony in about 3700 B.C. Oriental Institute Volunteer Irene Glasner has helped us make major progress in scanning the slides of the Late Chalcolithic small finds from the site. Irene has scanned more than 2,500 slides and checked their numbers and captions against the photo logs. She has reached the halfway point in this massive undertaking, which should be completed in the coming year.

In April 2009 Gil was invited to present a lecture at the Anthropology Department of the University of California, San Diego; the topic of his talk was “The Emergence of Complexity in the Ubaid Period of Greater Mesopotamia: Local Identities and Inter-Regional Interaction in the 5th Millennium B.C.” On May 12, 2009, he presented the keynote lecture at the annual Rall Symposium at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. It was a special pleasure to re-affirm the ties between the Oriental Institute and North Central College, since the latter institution is the alma mater of Oriental Institute founder James Henry Breasted. On June 22, 2009, Gil presented the preliminary results of the 2008 excavations at Tell Zeidan at a “brown-bag” lunchtime lecture at the Oriental Institute. He also conducted a training workshop on archaeological excavation methods for a group of six Iraqi archaeological conservators and cultural heritage specialists who were participating in a six-month training program as part of the Iraqi Cultural Heritage Program (ICHP), sponsored by the Field Museum in co-operation with the Oriental Institute.

In 2008, Gil published one article, “A Theoretical Model for Political Economy and Social Identity in the Old Assyrian Trading Colonies of Anatolia,” in the Turkish Academy of Sciences journal of archaeology, *TÜBA-AR*.
