



JERICHO MAFJAR PROJECT EXCAVATION REPORT



ALSO INSIDE:

- ★ Iconoclasm and Text Destruction Seminar
- ★ Voyage to the Red Sea with the Oriental Institute

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Director's Study	2
Jericho Mafjar Project Report	3
Adult Education	7
Calendar of Events	10
Registration Form	11
Oriental Institute in the News	13
Sunday Films	14
Publications News	15
Donors' Spotlight	19
Travel Program	20
Members' Preview	23
Suq Corner	Back Cover

NEWS & NOTES

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Maeve Reed, Editor

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

1155 East 58th Street
Chicago, IL 60637

Telephone: (773) 834-9777

Facsimile: (773) 702-9853

E-mail: oi-membership@uchicago.edu

All inquiries, comments, and
suggestions are welcome

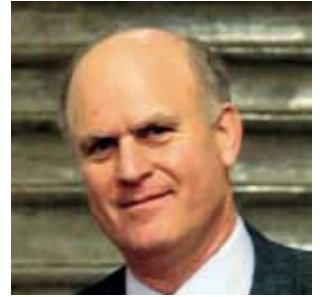
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COVER ILLUSTRATION:

Colored mosaic floor, Hisham's Palace, Jericho.
8th century A.D. From *Jericho, a Living History: Ten Thousand Years of Civilization*, by Hamdan Taha and Ali Qleibo (Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, 2010), page 71.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S STUDY

This issue of *News & Notes* gives us our first look at the Oriental Institute's newest field project — Don Whitcomb's excavations at Khirbet al-Mafjar. With these excavations, along with Yorke Rowan's Galilee Prehistory Project, the Oriental Institute is rebuilding its long-standing commitment to the archaeology of the southern Levant. The Mafjar excavations are especially noteworthy as the first American dig to take place in the Palestinian Authority. In this joint venture of the Oriental Institute and the Department of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage of the Palestinian Authority, Mafjar project co-directors Dr. Don Whitcomb and Dr. Hamdan Taha are breaking new ground in both the world of archaeology and the realm of cultural heritage preservation.



Don Whitcomb

Located in the oasis of Jericho in the Jordan River Valley, Mafjar was the seat of power for the Caliph Hisham of the Umayyads (eighth century CE) — the first Islamic dynasty. Excavations at Jericho are tremendously important because they can give us unique insights into the origins of Islamic civilization and the transformation of the Middle East from a Byzantine Christian dominated culture into the rich multicultural mosaic that emerged under Muslim rule.

As Don Whitcomb's article makes clear, the Mafjar project is highly innovative in pioneering the use of advanced technologies such as the iPad to improve the quality, speed, and cost-effectiveness of excavations. Effective, affordable handheld devices such as the iPad have never been practical for archaeological use until now, and their effect will be transformative. This "paperless archaeology" has the potential to transform the way we conduct archaeological research by recording the excavations in digital form in the field at the exact moment that the discoveries are being made. Most archaeologists count on spending ten hours in the lab for every hour spent digging. Paperless archaeology will not only cut our lab time in half, but it will also allow us to analyze our data so quickly in the field that we can see patterns and adjust the way we excavate almost immediately. The new technology

will also allow us to share data fully and quickly with our Palestinian colleagues. Overall, this project is developing ways to do our work of excavation, recording, and analysis faster and smarter than has ever been possible before.

We can all look forward to the discoveries of the Mafjar expedition as it proceeds — they will give us fascinating insights into the origins of Islamic civilization.



Khirbet al-Mafjar
Field Season, 2010-11

Twice a week water flows through the site of Khirbet al-Mafjar. In Arabic, *mafjar* means "flowing" (Photo by Donald Whitcomb)

KHIRBET AL-MAFJAR, OR NEW EXCAVATIONS AT HISHAM'S PALACE

Donald Whitcomb, Director, Jericho Mafjar Project

The past presents a twofold danger for archaeologists, a sort of double indemnity. The first aspect is the challenge of taking evidence — buildings, inscriptions, and sherds — and creating a historical interpretation, a narrative of the past. The second is that this narrative becomes part of the past and, like the original data, cannot be fixed but is subject to new interpretations. Archaeological writing is like the past itself, a moving target for new ideas.

This became clear to me in reactions to an article, written over twenty years ago, on the ceramics for Khirbet al-Mafjar and a reinterpretation of the chronology of that site. Mafjar is a monument near Jericho, a palace complex that has become an iconic symbol of artistic achievements in early Islamic Palestine. The excavations were undertaken during the 1930s and 1940s by the Department of Antiquities under the direction of Dimitri Baramki, with Robert Hamilton representing the British Mandatory authority. Happily, Baramki was a talented archaeologist who paid close attention to excavated ceramics. His detailed report on the Islamic

ceramics has such a wealth of information that it seemed to me a simple, and satisfying, project to rework his materials into a new narrative. Though written while on an American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) fellowship in Amman, this was an exercise in “arm-chair archaeology,” as I had no access to any of the pottery. Thus, the acceptance and influence of the article are due in large part to the quality of Baramki’s original work.

The accepted occupation of the site, as interpreted by Hamilton in his many articles and major monograph, was during the Caliphate of Hisham and his nephew, the caliph Walid, a period of 724 to 744, and work stopped unfinished at the latter’s death or the earthquake of 748/9. Baramki had realized a more complex history; using his reports, I was able to show a continuing occupation of the palace complex well into the Abbasid period, that is, possibly until the eleventh century. There was also a limited reoccupation during the Ayyubid period, until the thirteenth century. This historical revision had a surprising result. During

international meetings in Rome in 2008, the Palestinian director of antiquities, Dr. Hamdan Taha, approached me and exclaimed, “Whitcomb, I have proven you correct!” This is exactly what one likes to hear (especially for one given to rash re-interpretations). In this case, Hamdan had done a small excavation at Mafjar and obtained clear stratigraphic evidence of my suggested Abbasid and Ayyubid chronology.



Figure 1. The ruins of Khirbet al-Mafjar, seen from the southwest (Photo by Donald Whitcomb)



Figure 2. Painted jar of the early Umayyad period (Photo by Donald Whitcomb)

BEGINNING WITH A NEW GATE AND MONUMENTAL STAIRWAY

One thing leads to another, as they say, and two years later the Oriental Institute formed a cooperation with the Palestinian Authority to begin new excavations at Khirbet al-Mafjar. Again, this began with Hamdan Taha, as we were sitting in front of the palace; I reflected how nice this scene would have been in the shade of a portico,

iPADS IN JERICHO

Michael Jennings

An exciting and unexpected feature of the 2011 Jericho Mafjar Project (JMP) season was the use of iPads as part of a system of digital recording of excavation results. Excavations generate a massive amount of data, ranging from notes on soil composition to descriptions of structures to ceramic analyses, and managing these data is a central concern for every project. The unlikely story of how we ended up using iPads began in the course of preparing for JMP'11, when we came across an article on the Apple website that discussed their use at Pompeii by the University of Cincinnati. After some discussion with members of the Cincinnati team, we decided to adopt the iPad as an integral part of our documentation methodology.

The advantages of the iPad exceeded our expectations and were quickly adopted by our Palestinian colleagues. I have a lasting memory of standing among the ruins of the bath hall while one of our Palestinian team members demonstrated an iPad to a group of Japanese visitors. The iPad allowed us to maintain a project database directly in the field, streamlining the traditional process that involves filling out locus sheets by hand and then typing these into the computer at a later time. Devoting time to data management might be unavoidable, but the iPad allowed us to spend more time doing archaeology rather than file work.

As we wrapped up the 2011 season, we spent a day at the Department of Antiquities



Awni Sawamra using an iPad for records
(Photo by Michael Jennings)

in Ramallah, reminiscing about the previous two months at Mafjar. We printed out all the stratigraphic and ceramic data from each trench. Normally, this information would have taken months to organize. But with our new technology, we could share our results over tea with the colleagues who had worked so hard to help us make the project a success.

It is clear that there is great potential for the use of the iPad in the field of archaeology and that we will be seeing this technology at many more sites in the future.

with a garden and pavilion in front of us, and stretching to the east were green fields, the Jordan River in the distance, and the Jordanian highlands as the background. This was a *belvedere*, a *manzara* in Arabic, which was open to the east and enclosed by a gate to the south, leading toward the town of Jericho. There should be a north gate, a transition from the palace complex to the residential area, the town, to the north.

In mid-December of 2010, we began a trench on open, flat ground aligned with the south gate and a wall extending from the bath. The “we” enjoying the mild Jericho winter was a team under Jihad Yasin, the field supervisor who had worked with me in Aqaba some fifteen years ago and played with my son John, also present though no

longer riding on Jihad’s shoulders. Awni Shawamra worked with me on the gate; I selected him because he seemed a bit of a dreamy artist and soon realized he is an energetic and talented excavator. Within a day he was clearing pots

broken in situ in the guard room of one bastion; the second bastion soon appeared with fine carved stones. Among the fallen debris were iron nails and plating that once clad the wooden gate. The massive threshold was gone, and the fine paving stones removed, except for a few. This left the plaster bedding, which looked like waves on the sea, especially in the full moonlight. What was intended as a small trench grew to reveal the entire gate, about 14 x 10 m in size; Awni and I would have happily continued, had not Hamdan finally suggested we save some for the future.

At the same time, Bassam Nasasira laid out a second trench near Hamdan’s 2006 excavations. He had found massive walls north of the bath that suggested a major building; Mohammed Ghayyada, who had more experience at the Bronze Age Tell Sultan, provided his expertise in this complex trench. Contrary to the experience of the gate, for over a week he found only some scrappy, late walls. Then, a well-laid line of stones appeared, and another below that with plaster coating, and another below that with fallen stones. The stones were removed to reveal yet another step of a monumental stairway, and more fallen stones. Mohammad continued patiently down the stairs. At this point I suggested that he would come to a door, with a jinn guarding it, and would be asked a question (the right answer yielding a room full of treasure). Such is the stuff of legends, and, regrettably, we had to stop work because of the danger of collapse. We expanded with another trench and discovered a line of curving



Figure 3. The new north gate, looking southward (Photo by Jihad Yasin)



Figure 4. Michael Jennings sitting on the gate bench (Photo by Donald Whitcomb)

stones, which to my imagination was a massive tower. Gradually we realized this was a large water conduit, and Mohammed proved the identification by removing one of the capping stones.

PROCEEDING TO THE NORTHERN TOWN

As I suggested, stairs go down and they go up — and these seem to rise to meet some structure to the north. Both the north gate and the monumental stairway indicate an unimagined importance for the building complex of the northern area. This is a complex of buildings excavated by Awni Dajani during the 1960s under Jordanian authority. Regrettably, all records and materials from these extensive excavations have been lost, and one is now confronted with walls, platforms, cisterns, and other features of many different periods. The work of isolating later building phases from high-quality original construction was a challenge for Michael Jennings, my student from Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC), and Professor Enrico Cirelli from Bologna University. The two of them had worked together in Ravenna, unraveling the remains of a medieval monastery of similar complexity.

Patiently, they surveyed a new plan and created a typological phasing of walls, using a database created for iPads. At the same time, Jihad took the lead in clearing a Jordanian trench, which revealed a large ornamental pool surrounded by white mosaic paving, clearly the remains of a pavilion gracing this early town plan. The result seems to be an important residential complex that may be considered an early Islamic town constructed in association with the palace complex to the south.

In addition to their architectural planning, Michael and Enrico excavated

several rooms, finding little left by the Jordanians. When they turned to the baulks, the earth left between their trenches, there was a dramatic change. One baulk produced five complete lamps, numerous glass vials, storage jars, burnt basketry and seeds (even complete charred dates), beads and buttons, and more. The imagination runs wild at what the Jordanian excavators must have recovered. Perhaps just as important, these were stratified in two layers: the earlier was Umayyad and possibly earlier than any other place excavated, and the later was Umayyad-Abbasid transition of the eighth century, more typical of finds elsewhere. On the other hand, the north gate was kept clean for most of its existence, leaving relatively few artifacts; but the stairway near the bath produced a wonderful sequence of Abbasid glazed ceramics, just as we had hoped and Hamdan had predicted.



Figure 5. A Jash-style lamp with Arabic inscription (Photo by Donald Whitcomb)



Figure 6. The North Area in March 2010, from the south (Photo by Donald Whitcomb)



THE JOINT PALESTINIAN-AMERICAN EXPEDITION AT KHIRBET AL-MAFJAR

Hamdan Taha, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage

After the transfer of authority in 1994, the Department of Antiquities of Palestine began a large rehabilitation program at Hisham's palace in cooperation with UNESCO, Studium Biblicum Franciscanum, ANERA, USAID, and Birzeit University. The focus of the work was on conservation of the mosaic pavement and stone restoration, as well as upgrading the tourist infrastructure, including the access roads and walking paths, a site museum, and an interpretation center.

Following a small-scale excavation in 2006 by the Department of Antiquities, a joint program was agreed between the Department of Antiquities and the Oriental Institute for the scientific reassessment of the site. It had been some sixty-five years since the last season of excavations by D. C. Baramki and R. A. Hamilton. This new joint Palestinian-American expedition, under the direction of Dr. D. Whitcomb and Dr. H. Taha, will provide the new momentum for intensive archeological research needed at this monument. The first season in 2011 succeeded in uncovering the north gate of the palace complex and began the exploration of the Umayyad town in the northern part of the site. This will lead to a more precise stratigraphic history of the site and an understanding of the spatial relationship between the palace and the Umayyad town.

The joint Palestinian-American project begins a model for research and training and will be associated with community outreach activities in the city of Jericho.

SIGNIFICANCE AND A MODEL FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

It has been said that Islamic archaeology has as many definitions as there are practitioners. Each archaeologist brings a unique understanding of the mix of art and artifacts, using the combination for new historical narratives. Qasr Hisham is a fine exemplar of the phenomenon. Khirbet al-Mafjar is attributed to the time of the caliph Hisham (724–743) on the strength of an ostrakon found there, apparently the draft of a letter to the caliph. There is no literary or historical documentation for the real name of these monuments.

This is odd for a palace and especially the bath with its sumptuous decoration, the vast floors of mosaics, and walls covered with stucco panels and human figures (not to mention brightly colored frescoes). These arts give a new meaning to aesthetics of the Umayyad period, the earliest Islamic dynasty. This was a culture expected to place greatest value on poetry and singing. The combination of visual and oral arts has produced visions of Walid's pleasure dome (the "frivolity hall," in Hamilton's terms), the dominant understanding of Qasr Hisham. While no one would want to deny that the Umayyads had some good parties, one might expect some more serious functions.

Beginning with the arts mentioned, one may note a curious combination

of Byzantine traditions with strong Sasanian influences and less obvious Coptic aspects. More importantly, there should be evidence of Arabia from the traditions of the Hijaz and South Arabia (Himyarite materials). This is more than a new hybrid style, but the first material manifestation of Islamic culture. Finally, Khirbet al-Mafjar was intended as urban — a beginning for the Islamic city.

The first season of the joint Palestinian-American project has been fortunate in a series of discoveries that will change the interpretation of Hisham's palace. This monument may actually double the size of the archaeological remains and change perceptions of the achievements of the Umayyads. The potential now exists for a new understanding of the origins and early development of the Islamic city. Perhaps of greater significance is the new chapter being written in cooperative research between the Palestinian Authority and the Oriental Institute. The excavations at Khirbet al-Mafjar present an opportunity for greater understanding of the cultural heritage of Jericho and all of Palestine.

Donald Whitcomb directs the program in Islamic Archaeology for the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and he directs the Jericho Mafjar Project.



Figure 7. The famous mosaic called The Tree of Life at Mafjar (Photo courtesy of Jihad Yasin)

SUMMER ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

The following courses provide Teacher Recertification CPDUs from the Illinois State Board of Education. For more information, call Public Education at (773) 702-9507.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION

Jonathan Winnerman

Saturdays, July 9–August 27

10:00 AM–12:00 noon

Oriental Institute

Why did the Greek historian Herodotus name the Egyptians as the most religious of all peoples? He certainly knew of Egypt's plethora of animal-headed deities, secret rituals, and apparent obsession with death, but he was actually referring to the way in which religion pervaded every level of Egyptian culture and society. This course introduces the relationship of religion and society in ancient Egypt, covering such topics as the gods and their temples, conceptions of the afterlife, and the question of Egyptian monotheism. Selected class sessions include visits to the Oriental Institute Museum's Egyptian Gallery.

INSTRUCTOR: Jonathan Winnerman, a PhD candidate in Egyptology in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, studies Egyptian religion and has excavated in Egypt, Syria, and Turkey.

CPDUs: 16

REQUIRED TEXT: Byron E. Shafer, ed. *Religion in Ancient Egypt: Gods, Myths and Personal Practice*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1991.

RECOMMENDED TEXT: Eric Hornung. *Conceptions of God in Ancient Egypt: The One and the Many*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1982.

FEE: \$240 for Oriental Institute members; \$290 for non-members.

This class meets at the Oriental Institute on Saturday mornings beginning July 9 and continuing through August 27. Pre-registration is required. It is co-sponsored by the Graham School of General Studies and counts as an elective for the Graham School's non-credit certificate in Arabic Language and Cultures.

DIG INTO HISTORY: AN ARCHAEOLOGY EXPERIENCE CAMP FOR ADULTS

Justine James and Megaera Lorenz

Saturday, July 23 OR Saturday, August 13

9:00 AM–5:00 PM

Lunch provided on site

Are you fascinated by archaeology but don't have the time, resources, or opportunity to participate in an excavation? This summer the Oriental Institute is pleased to offer a unique, hands-on archaeology experience for adults using our Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center. Led by two field archaeologists, you'll explore the basics of what archaeology is and why we do it, get hands-on experience excavating a simulated archaeological site, and learn about post-excavation work in the field, including the recording of finds and reconstruction of artifacts.

We anticipate lively discussion and interaction as we work together to answer questions about planning an excavation, the logistics of digging, and the ways disparate pieces of information can come together to shape ideas about how people lived in the past. This program also includes a rare, behind-the-scenes opportunity to visit the laboratories and research areas where the Oriental Institute's collection of ancient Near Eastern art and artifacts is housed, studied, and prepared for museum exhibits.

INSTRUCTORS: Justine James has excavated in the United States, Egypt, and Sudan and has worked on post-excavation analysis of materials from the United States, Israel, Egypt, and Sudan. She holds an MA from the University of Chicago in Near Eastern art and archaeology and has taught at Tulane University's School of Continuing Studies.

Megaera Lorenz is a PhD candidate in Egyptology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. She has excavated in Egypt and Sudan and has taught ancient Egyptian language classes at the University of Chicago.

CPDUs: 8

FEE: \$295 for Oriental Institute members; \$345 for non-members. For adults, ages 18 and up. Pre-registration required. A box lunch and all program activities and materials are included, along with a field notebook to record discoveries and memories of the day.

Some of the program's activities involve kneeling, bending, or climbing shallow steps, but all can be adapted for special needs. Please contact Public Education at (773) 702-9507 for additional information.

SAVE THE DATE

JAZZ ENTHUSIASTS!

The fifth annual Hyde Park Jazz Festival takes place on Saturday, September 24. Experience some of the biggest names in local jazz on indoor and outdoor stages located in cultural venues throughout Hyde Park, including the Oriental Institute's Breasted Hall. For more information, visit www.hydepark-jazzfestival.org



STUDENT MEMBERSHIP AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

**Maeve Reed,
Membership Coordinator**

As part of Art Pass, a university-wide initiative to promote greater engagement in cultural activities and the arts, the Oriental Institute began offering free membership to University of Chicago undergraduate and graduate students in April 2010. To manage this new program, the Membership Office has been lucky to acquire the talents of graduate students Brittany Wheeler and Emily Pavelle to serve as program coordinators. Brittany and Emily have done an excellent job, turning a fledgling program into a vibrant student group with close to 600 active members. Student membership includes all the benefits of membership and invitations to special, student-only events throughout the academic year:



Student members try their hand at archaeology during Tell Night.

STUDY AT THE OI

On December 5, 2010, and March 13, 2011, the Oriental Institute hosted Study at the OI, an all-night study hall in the Oriental Institute Museum galleries. Over a hundred students prepared for final exams and worked on their final papers in the galleries, enjoyed refreshments and study breaks in the lobby, and sought academic inspiration from the Museums' permanent collection.

TELL NIGHT

On February 23, thirty-two University of Chicago students learned what it really takes to be an archaeologist, by participating in Tell Night, a simulated, hands-on archaeological dig experience at the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center. Lead by KADC facilitators Marissa Stevens and Matthew Nunnlley, student members learned the science of archaeological digs, excavated replicas of ancient artifacts, and kept field notes on their finds.

INDY FILM FEST

Each Thursday in April, student members were given the red-carpet treatment as the Oriental Institute hosted the Indy Film Fest in Breasted Hall, a month-long screening all four films from the Indiana Jones franchise. Hundreds of students turned out to see the films, enjoy free popcorn, and watch the antics of fellow University of Chicago alumnus, Indiana Jones. Yorke Rowan and Morag Kersel, both research associates at the Oriental Institute, introduced the films.



UC students study in the serenity of the Yelda Khorsabad Court during Study at the OI

As we move into a new academic year, the Membership Office is working to grow our student membership program and awareness of the Oriental Institute among the University of Chicago student community with additional outreach and new programs. I look forward to sharing the next calendar of student events in an upcoming fall edition of the *E-Tablet*.

The success of this program would not have been possible without the support of Gil Stein, Steve Camp, Carole Krucoff, Jessica Caracci, Yorke Rowan, Morag Kersel, Melissa Bykowski, Meghan Winston, Marissa Stevens, Matthew Nunnlley, Bill Michel, and Leigh Fagin, and, most importantly, the hard work of Brittany Wheeler and Emily Pavelle. Thank you for all your help with this program.

Are you a University of Chicago college or graduate student interested in FREE membership to the Oriental Institute? Sign up online by visiting <http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved> or stop by the Oriental Institute to fill out an application.

NOW ON VIEW

BEFORE THE PYRAMIDS: THE ORIGINS OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION

Through December 31

Make sure to see this special exhibit that explores the earliest stages of Egyptian culture. The show features artifacts that date from around 4000–2685 BC, including two spectacular objects on loan from the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University — the Battlefield Palette and a limestone statue of King Khasekhem, neither of which has been shown before in the United States. These two objects are exhibited alongside our cast of the Narmer Palette, allowing the visitor to trace the rise of early kingship. You can learn more about this exciting era from the exhibit's audio guide (free for Oriental Institute members), the exhibit catalog, and the interactive kiosk in the gallery.



This fragment of the Battlefield Palette, ca. 3100, provides important information about the rise of the Egyptian state before the advent of writing. An ibis and a falcon, both emblems of Egyptian gods, appear atop ceremonial standards that were carried in royal and sacred processions. Two men, their arms bound behind them, are identified as northerners by their hair and beards. They are seized by arms that emerge from the standards, symbolizing the domination of the north by the victorious southern kings. Photograph courtesy of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University

Oriental Institute–Robie House Collaboration

SATURDAY EVENING SAMPLER

Saturday, July 16

4:00–7:00 PM

Begins at Robie House

5757 South Woodlawn Ave.

Chicago, IL 60637

Continues at Oriental Institute

Pre-registration required

You are invited to enjoy a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception and informal tours of Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece Robie House, our neighbor here on campus, as well as a presentation by Emily Teeter on the Oriental Institute Museum's special exhibit, *Before the Pyramids: The Origins of Egyptian Civilization*. Following Teeter's presentation, you are welcome to join her at the Oriental Institute for an after-hours private tour of the *Before the Pyramids* exhibit, where she will share her special insights as the exhibit's curator.

FEE: \$30 for Robie House and Oriental Institute members; \$35 for non-members. Fee includes reception, presentation by Emily Teeter, and Robie House and Oriental Institute tours. Visit www.gowright.org to purchase tickets.

SUMMER 2011 CALENDAR

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

JULY

- 3 | SUNDAY **Breasted Hall closed for Independence Day weekend**
- 9 | SATURDAY **Ancient Egyptian Religion**
Adult Education Course
10:00 AM
See page 7 for details
- 10 | SUNDAY **The Face of Tutankhamun: The Great Adventure**
Film
2:00 PM
See page 14 for details
- 11 | MONDAY **Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist**
Day Camp for Children
9:00 AM
Lillstreet Art Center
See page 17 for details
- 13 | WEDNESDAY **Before the Pyramids: The Behind-the-Scenes Story**
Gallery Tour
12:15 PM
See page 17 for details
- 16 | SATURDAY **Saturday Evening Sampler**
Adult Education Event
4:00 PM
Robie House
See page 9 for details
- 17 | SUNDAY **The Face of Tutankhamun: Wonderful Things**
Film
2:00 PM
See page 14 for details
- 23 | SATURDAY **Dig Into History**
Archaeology Experience Camp for Adults
9:00 AM
See page 7 for details
- 24 | SUNDAY **The Face of Tutankhamun: The Pharaoh Awakes**
Film
2:00 PM
See page 14 for details

- 31 | SUNDAY **The Face of Tutankhamun: Heads in the Sand**
Film
2:00 PM
See page 14 for details

AUGUST

- 7 | SUNDAY **Deciphering the Dead Sea Scrolls**
Film
2:00 PM
See page 14 for details
- 8 | MONDAY **Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist**
Day Camp for Children
9:00 AM
Lillstreet Art Center
See page 17 for details
- 12 | FRIDAY **Cocktails and Clay, Ancient Egyptian Style**
Adult Education & Art Event
7:00 PM
Hyde Park Art Center
See page 13 for details
- 13 | SATURDAY **Dig Into History**
Archaeology Experience Camp for Adults
9:00 AM
See page 7 for details
- 14 | SUNDAY **The Dark Lords of Hattusha**
Film
2:00 PM
See page 14 for details
- 21 | SUNDAY **Mesopotamia: I Have Conquered the River**
Film
2:00 PM
See page 14 for details
- 28 | SUNDAY **Pioneer to the Past: The Life and Times of James Henry Breasted**
Film
2:00 PM
See page 14 for details

SUMMER 2011 CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

<p>4 SUNDAY Breasted Hall closed for Labor Day weekend</p>	<p>24 SATURDAY Hyde Park Jazz Festival See page 7 for details</p>
<p>11 SUNDAY Iran: Seven Faces of a Civilization Film 2:00 PM See page 14 for details</p>	<p>25 SUNDAY Incredible Isfahan: Discovering Persia's Past Film 2:00 PM See page 14 for details</p>
<p>18 SUNDAY Persepolis Revisited Film 2:00 PM See page 14 for details</p>	



EDUCATION PROGRAMS REGISTRATION FORM

Don't miss out — register early!

Please enroll me in the following Public Programs:

	MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Ancient Egyptian Religion	_____ \$240	_____ \$290	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dig Into History: An Archaeology Experience Camp for Adults	_____ \$295	_____ \$345	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Saturday Evening Sampler <i>Visit www.gowright.org to purchase tickets</i>	_____ \$30	_____ \$35	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Be an Ancient Egyptian Artist <i>To register, call LillStreet Art Center at (773) 769-4226</i>	_____ \$20	_____ \$25	_____
	GRAND TOTAL		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>K-12 teachers seeking CPDUs for eligible programs, please check here.</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>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>			

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 in collaboration with 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.

EVERY DAY IS FAMILY DAY AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

SELF-GUIDED MUSEUM ACTIVITIES IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH FOR FAMILIES ARE AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND

The Oriental Institute Museum invites children and their families to explore the fascinating world of the ancient Near East with free bilingual gallery activity cards in English and Spanish as well as bilingual interactive computer kiosks throughout the museum. Join us year-round to travel back in time with computer games and gallery

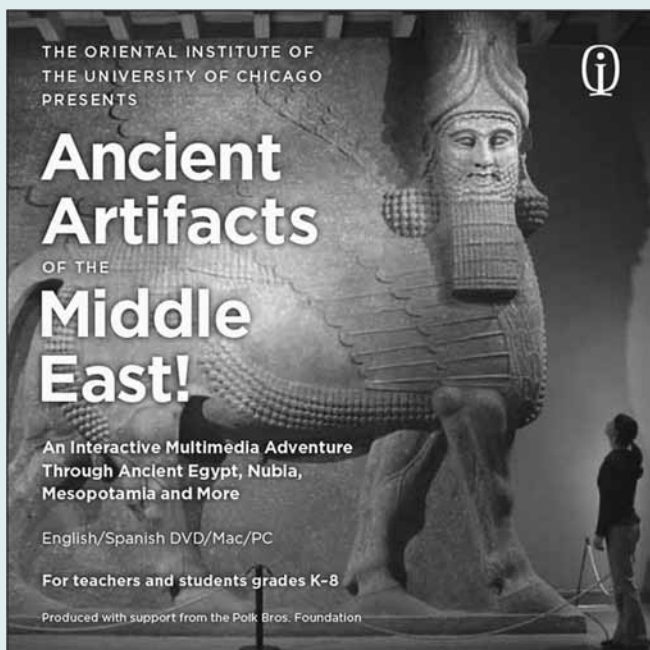
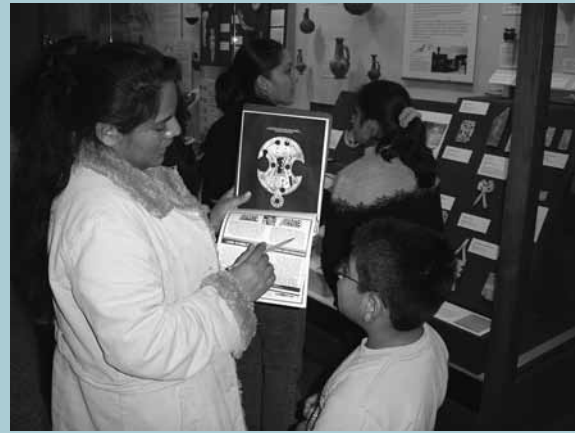
activities that invite you to unlock the mysteries of ancient tombs; see the palaces of ancient kings; find toys, games, and animals from long ago; and dig like an archaeologist to discover secrets of the past.

Developed in partnership with Spanish- and English-speaking families as well as educators from Chicago-area schools, these free museum activities

for children and their parents are supported by the Polk Bros. Foundation.

The Museum also offers "A Kid's Tour of Ancient Egypt," an iPod audiotour in both English and Spanish that is available at the Suq at no charge to Oriental Institute members and for \$5 to non-members.

Left: bilingual interactive computer kiosks. Right: families enjoy bilingual gallery activity cards



ANCIENT ARTIFACTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST DVD

Children and their parents can continue exploring the ancient world at home with *Ancient Artifacts of the Middle East*, a new bilingual DVD based on the Oriental Institute's collections that takes families on a multimedia adventure through ancient Egypt, Nubia, Mesopotamia, and more. Available for purchase from the Suq for \$12.95, this unique resource, developed with the support of the Polk Bros. Foundation, contains teacher-developed lesson plans that make it an ideal educational enrichment tool for the classroom.

For more information, call Public Education at (773) 702-9507 or preview our activities at Kids Corner on the Oriental Institute website: oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/ED/kids.html.



THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE IN THE NEWS



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

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE AND ITS PROJECTS

Antiquity

March 2011

"Project Gallery — Maitland's 'Mesa' Reassessed: A Late Prehistoric Cemetery in the Eastern Badiya, Jordan," by Yorke Rowan, Gary Rollefson, & Morag Kersel — <http://www.antiquity.ac.uk/projgall/rowan327/>

Chronicle of Higher Education

March 29, 2011

"U. of Chicago and Museums Win Key Ruling in Legal Battle over Antiquities," by David Green — http://chronicle.com/article/U-of-Chicago-Museums-Win/126923/?sid=pm&utm_source=pm&utm_medium=en

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM

The Views Paper

March 21, 2011

"The Windy City — Tips for Visiting Chicago," by Dr. Jessie Voights — <http://theviewspaper.net/the-windy-city-tips-for-visiting-chicago/>

Mobius Arts and Science Initiative

March 28, 2011

"Museums and Conservation: Re-imagining History," interview with Emily Teeter about exhibits — <http://mobiusasi.wordpress.com/2011/03/28/museums-and-conservation-emily-teeter-re-imagining-history/>

Mobius Arts and Science

April 11, 2011

"Initiative Conservation of Art – Talking with Alison Whyte" — <http://mobiusasi.wordpress.com/2011/04/11/conservation-of-art-talking-with-alison-whyte/>

Time Out Chicago Around and About blog

March 30, 2011

"Who are Chicago's Culture Curators?" Emily Teeter as Chicago cultural curator, by John Dugan — <http://timeoutchicago.com/arts-culture/13524367/who-are-chicago%E2%80%99s-culture-curators?page=0,2>

University of Chicago Magazine

March-April, 2011

"This Won't Hurt a Bit: Ultramodern Technology Finds a Place at the Oriental Institute," by Benjamin Recchie — http://uchiblog.uchicago.edu/archives/2011/03/this_wont_hurt.html

BEFORE THE PYRAMIDS EXHIBIT

University of Chicago News

March 28, 2011

"Key Egyptian Relics Make Their First Visit to US" — <http://news.uchicago.edu/>

Chicago Tribune

March 29, 2011

"The King Is in the Building... Whew!" by Mark Caro — <http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/#&lid=Entertainment&lpos=Main>

Examiner.com

March 29, 2011

"Oriental Institute Showcases Early Egyptian Art and Artifacts," by Jodie Jacobs — <http://www.examiner.com/art-exhibits-in-chicago/oriental-institute-showcases-early-egyptian-art-and-artifacts>

Time Out Chicago

April 7–13, 2011

"That's Ancient History," by Madeline Nusser — <http://timeoutchicago.com/arts-culture/museums/13798991/%E2%80%9Cbefore-the-pyramids-the-origins-of-egyptian-civilization%E2%80%9D>

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE/HYDE PARK ART CENTER COLLABORATION

COCKTAILS AND CLAY, ANCIENT EGYPTIAN STYLE

Friday, August 12

7:00–11:00 PM; doors open at 6:45

Hyde Park Art Center

5020 South Cornell Avenue

Chicago, IL 60615

Get inspired by ancient Egyptian art during a special "Cocktails and Clay" event at the Hyde Park Art Center. Enjoy 45-minute clay-making sessions in the Art Center's school and studio, where teaching artists will show you how to make hand-built ceramics similar to those on display in *Before the Pyramids: The Origins of Ancient Egyptian Civilization*, the newest special exhibit at the Oriental Institute Museum. Curator Emily Teeter will be on hand to show reproductions of the exhibit's exquisite ancient pottery.

After class, explore the Art Center's six gallery spaces while you sip on cocktails from the cash bar sponsored by Chant Restaurant. DJs will spin classic hip-hop, funk, and house records to keep the dance floor going all evening long.

Suggested donation: \$15. No pre-registration required. For additional information, call Public Education at (773) 702-9502, or the Hyde Park Art Center at (772) 324-5520.

SUNDAY FILMS

Each Sunday afternoon, enjoy the best in documentary films on the ancient Near East at the Oriental Institute. Films begin at 2:00 PM, and running times range from 30 to 50 minutes unless otherwise noted. There is no admission fee. Following the films, museum docents will be available in the galleries to answer questions about our exhibits.

July 3 Independence Day weekend. No film showing.

For the remainder of July, we present screenings from the classic BBC series *King Tut: The Face of Tutankhamun* (1992). Courtesy of A&E Network.

July 10 *The Great Adventure*

The first episode in the series retraces Howard Carter's momentous journey from rural England to the doorway of King Tut's tomb.

July 17 *Wonderful Things*

Howard Carter unseals Tut's tomb, revealing a vast treasure beyond imagination.

July 24 *The Pharaoh Awakes*

"Tutmania" sweeps the world, influencing fashion, art, and the movies.

July 31 *Heads in the Sand*

Scientific studies confirm the pharaoh's age and royal heritage, while his treasures are imperiled by modern civilization.

August 7 *Deciphering the Dead Sea Scrolls* (1999)

This film explores the discovery and heated disputes surrounding the authorship and interpretation of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest and most complete biblical manuscripts ever found. The film features commentary by scholars from around the world, including Norman Golb, Ludwig Rosenberger Professor in Jewish History and Civilization at the University of Chicago.

August 14 *The Dark Lords of Hattusha* (2006)

This BBC film introduces the Hittites, a civilization that arose in ancient Turkey more than 3,000 years ago and built an empire that rivaled those of Egypt and Babylon. Then, just as it was at the height of its powers, this great empire vanished. Now archaeologists have rediscovered Hattusha, the long-lost Hittite capital, unearthing one of the most astonishing and ingenious cities of the ancient world.

August 21 *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.

August 28 *Pioneer to the Past: The Life and Times of James Henry Breasted* (2004)

Part of WTTW's Chicago Stories series, this film presents Chicago-area native James Henry Breasted, founder of the Oriental Institute. Arriving at the University of Chicago in the 1890s as the first American professor of Egyptology,

Breasted's scholarly vision, entrepreneurial flair, and unbending determination helped him shape the Oriental Institute into a great academic institution that is still guided by his principles.

September 4 Memorial Day weekend. No film showing.

For the remainder of September we present three extraordinary films on ancient Iran from internationally acclaimed documentary filmmaker Farzin Rezaeian.

September 11 *Iran: Seven Faces of a Civilization* (2007)

This major documentary uses the latest technology to showcase the celebrated art and archaeology of Iran over 7,000 years. A cinematic adventure that features spectacular graphic reconstructions superimposed on images of actual architectural remains, the film brilliantly recaptures the ancient treasures of Iran in ways never before possible.

September 18 *Persepolis Revisited* (2004)

Discover the history and grandeur of Persepolis, a magnificent capital of the great Persian Empire from 520 BC until it was destroyed by Alexander the Great in 330 BC. This production features spectacular reconstructions of the great palaces at Persepolis and explains their function in connection with the Persian New Year festival of Naw Ruz, which Iranian communities worldwide still celebrate each spring.

September 25 *Incredible Isfahan: Discovering Persia's Past* (2011)

The most recent production from Farzin Rezaeian, this major new documentary presents the zenith of Iranian splendor as showcased in the magnificent city of Isfahan. The film 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.



Cylinder seal OIM A21629 (from *Stratified Cylinder Seals from the Diyala Region*, by H. Frankfort. Oriental Institute Publications 72, 1955, pl. 1i).

NEWS FROM THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE

Rebecca Cain, Leslie Schramer, & Thomas G. Urban

In 2004, the Oriental Institute launched a new series, Oriental Institute Seminars (OIS), which publishes the proceedings from small, focused seminars that explore important theoretical, methodological, and cross-culturally significant topics relating to broader issues in the Near East. Since the first seminar was held in 2003, the Publications Office has published seven OIS books in 1,862 pages, and the eighth will be the product of the most recent post-doctoral seminar, *Iconoclasm and Text Destruction in the Ancient Near East and Beyond*, organized by Natalie May. Most of the proceedings are published in less than a year after the seminar is held.

The series, which has a wide appeal, has been well received by scholars. Its popularity is reflected in the OIS series sales and online download figures (as of 14 April 2011), detailed below. Since December 2004, seven volumes of the Oriental Institute Seminar series have been published, totaling 5,000 books. In all, 2,404 books have sold, and 43,691 PDFs have been downloaded.

<p>OIS 1 <i>Changing Social Identity with the Spread of Islam</i> (Donald Whitcomb) Published December 2004 (print run 500) Sales 237 Downloads 2,138 (online since 8 February 2005)</p>	<p>OIS 4 <i>Religion and Power</i> (Nicole Brisch) Published March 2008 (print run 700) Sales 478 Downloads 8,638 (online since 28 February 2008)</p>
<p>OIS 2 <i>Margins of Writing, Origins of Cultures</i> (Seth Sanders) Published June 2006 (print run 400) Sales 463 Downloads 9,474 (online since 17 April 2006)</p>	<p>OIS 5 <i>Nomads, Tribes, and the State</i> (Jeffrey Szuchman) Published February 2009 (print run 850) Sales 364 Downloads 6,454 (online since 16 March 2009)</p>
<p>OIS 2.2 <i>Margins</i> second printing with corrections Published December 2007 (print run 300) Sales see 1st edition Downloads 5,488 (online since 28 February 2008)</p>	<p>OIS 6 <i>Divination and Interpretation of Signs</i> (Amar Annus) Published January 2010 (print run 850) Sales 391 Downloads 3,279 (online since 18 February 2010)</p>
<p>OIS 3 <i>Performing Death</i> (Nicola Laneri) Published June 2007 (print run 300) Reprint September 2009 (print run 300) Sales 471 Downloads 7,686 (online since 10 August 2007)</p>	<p>OIS 7 <i>Slaves and Households</i> (Laura Culbertson) Published March 2011 (print run 800) Sales not yet known Downloads 534 (online since 22 March 2011)</p>

Publication of the Oriental Institute Seminars series is made possible through generous support of the Arthur and Lee Herbst Research and Education Fund

*The Publications Office is staffed by Thomas G. Urban (Managing Editor), Leslie Schramer (Editor),
Rebecca Cain (Assistant Editor), and Jessen O'Brien (Editorial Assistant)*



Since October 2004 the Publications Office has worked to make all Oriental Institute titles available for free download and thus far has had over two hundred older books scanned, with just over one hundred more to go. One of the unforeseen benefits of the scanning is that the scans can be used to reprint many of the long out-of-print titles. The above pictures are from one such scanning endeavor — *Stratified Cylinder Seals from the Diyala Region*, by Henri Frankfort, Oriental Institute Publications 72 (1955, plate 41). The image on the left is a scan of a photograph from the Oriental Institute Museum Archives; the image on the right is extracted from a PDF created from a scan of the original publication.

NEW TITLE: CAD, VOLUME 20, U AND W

The Publications Office is pleased to announce the publication of the final volume of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary — Volume 20, U and W. In 1919, the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary was conceived to provide more than lexical information alone, more than a one-to-one equivalent between Akkadian and English words. By presenting each word in a meaningful context, usually with a full and idiomatic translation, it re-creates the cultural milieu and thus in many ways assumes the function of an encyclopedia.

The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, Volume 20, U and W. Martha T. Roth, Editor-in-Charge
Pp. xxxii + 411. 2010. \$150

This title is available from the David Brown Book Company/Oxbow Books: www.oxbowbooks.com

ICONOCLASM AND TEXT DESTRUCTION IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST AND BEYOND: THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE ANNUAL SEMINAR

Natalie N. May, Post-doctoral Scholar

On April 8–9, the Oriental Institute held its annual seminar, which traditionally takes place in the Breasted Hall. The title of this year’s seminar was “Iconoclasm and Text Destruction in the Ancient Near East and Beyond,” which was organized by Natalie N. May, the Oriental Institute Post-doctoral Scholar.

The purpose of this conference was to analyze the cases of and reasons for mutilation of texts and images in Near Eastern antiquity. Destruction of images and texts has a universal character; it is inherent in various societies and periods of human history. Together with the mutilation of human beings, it was a widespread and highly significant phenomenon in the ancient Near East. However, the goals meant to be realized by this process differed from those aimed at in other cultures. For example, iconoclasm of the French and Russian Revolutions, as well as Post-Soviet

iconoclasm, did not have any religious purposes. Moreover, modern comprehension of iconoclasm is strongly influenced by its conception during the Reformation.

This seminar explored iconoclasm and text destruction in ancient Near Eastern antiquity through examination of the anthropological, cultural, historical, and political aspects of these practices. Broad interdisciplinary comparison with similar phenomena in the other cultures and periods will contribute to better understanding them.

The Oriental Institute Seminars are conceived as interdisciplinary discourse. Thus this seminar embraced all historical periods starting with Sumer and concluding with modernity. Among the participants were such internationally celebrated scholars as Angelika Berlejung (ancient Near East), Robin Cormack (Byzantium), W. J. T. Mitchell (English literature and modern art),

and Irene Winter (ancient Near East), together with young and promising scholars such as Silke Knippschild (classics), Nathaniel Levtow (Hebrew Bible), and Hanspeter Schaudig (Assyriology). The renowned specialists contributed papers in their field of expertise — Betsy Bryan (Egyptology), Joan Goodnick Westenholz (Assyriology), Lee Palmer Wandel (Reformation), and Claudia Suter (ancient Near Eastern art). On behalf of the Oriental Institute, lectures were delivered by Petra Goedegebuure (Hittitology), Natalie N. May (Assyriology and ancient Near Eastern art), Seth Richardson (history of the ancient Near East), and Christopher Woods (Sumerology). The conference was attended by about 120 people and attracted international scholarly attention. The scholarly community all over the world expressed to Natalie N. May great interest in the seminar itself and anticipation of the subsequent publication of the seminar papers.



Pictured, left to right: (front row) Marian Feldman, Hanspeter Schaudig, Joan Goodnick Westenholz, Claudia Suter, Irene Winter, Angelika Berlejung; (middle row) Seth Richardson, JoAnn Scurlock, Robin Cormack, Natalie N. May, Betsy M. Bryan; (back row) Silke Knippschild, Nathaniel Levtow, Petra Goedegebuure, Walter Kaegi, Christopher Woods. Not pictured: Janet Johnson, Richard Neer, Miguel Civil, Robert Biggs, W. J. T. Mitchell, Lee Palmer Wandel

SUMMER DAY CAMP FOR CHILDREN

BE AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARTIST

Monday, July 11–Friday, July 15

OR

Monday, August 8–Friday, August 12

9:00 AM–1:00 PM

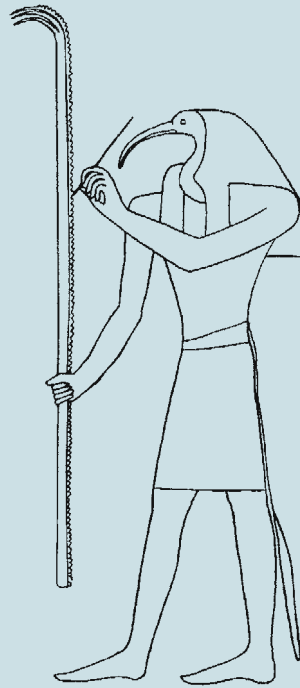
Lillstreet Art Center

4401 North Ravenswood Avenue

Chicago, IL 60640

Calling all Junior Egyptologists! Children ages 8–12 are invited to explore the spectacular arts of ancient Egypt at this summer day camp co-sponsored by the Oriental Institute and the Lillstreet Art Center. Let the Egyptian gods inspire you as you create paintings and jewelry like those found in the palaces and tombs of ancient pharaohs. Try your hand at Egyptian metalworking, pottery making, and more. The camp, which takes place at the Lillstreet Art Center, also includes a one-day visit to the Oriental Institute Museum’s Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery.

FEE: \$255. All materials, supplies, and round-trip bus transportation to the Oriental Institute included. Pre-registration required. Call the Lillstreet Art Center at (773) 769-4226.



GALLERY TOUR

BEFORE THE PYRAMIDS: THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES STORY

Wednesday, July 13

12:15 pm

FREE. Pre-registration not required.

Join Emily Teeter, Curator of Before the Pyramids: The Origins of Egyptian Civilization, for a unique guided tour addressing behind-the-scenes planning and processes — including development of themes, object selection, label writing, and exhibit design — all of which led to the creation of this extraordinary special exhibit featuring art and artifacts from the dawn of Egyptian culture.



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

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE WELCOMES



Dr. Brian Muhs

Dr. Brian Muhs – Egyptologist

The Oriental Institute and the University of Chicago are pleased to announce that Dr. Brian Muhs will join the Oriental Institute as an associate professor of Egyptology this year. Dr. Muhs is a specialist on the economy of Ptolemaic Egypt and is working on a book about the Egyptian economy in the Old Kingdom. He comes to us from the Papyrological Institute of Leiden University, where he has taught Demotic and Greek since 1997. Dr. Muhs received his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1996. He will begin his appointment on July 1, 2011.



Dr. Jack Green

Dr. Jack Green – Chief Curator

The Oriental Institute is pleased to announce that Dr. Jack Green has been selected as the new Chief Curator for the Oriental Institute Museum. Dr. Green is coming to us from the Ashmolean Museum, where he served as Curator for the Ancient Near East. Prior to his role at the Ashmolean, he held positions in the British Museum as well as the University of Liverpool. He received his PhD from the Institute of Archaeology at University College London. Dr. Green will begin his appointment on August 1, 2011.

Journal of Near Eastern Studies is devoted to the study of civilizations in the ancient and premodern Near East.

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Journal of
Near Eastern Studies



DONOR SPOTLIGHT: VISITING COMMITTEE TRIP TO TORONTO

Rebecca Silverman, Development Associate

This past spring, six members of the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee participated in an exciting new opportunity by attending the first Visiting Committee travel program. With the help of Clemens Reichel, Associate Curator of the Ancient Near East at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), Assistant Professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology at the University of Toronto, Research Associate at the Oriental Institute, and director of the Oriental Institute's excavations at Hamoukar, Syria, Visiting Committee members spent an exciting – and educational – two days in Toronto, Ontario.



Figure 1. Oriental Institute Visiting Committee members are treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the ROM storage rooms



Figure 2. Clemens Reichel displays stamp seals from Jemdet Nasr, Iraq

Upon arriving in Toronto, the group was treated to a lecture by Professor Tim Harrison of the University of Toronto on his research at Tell Tayinat, Turkey. The Bronze and Iron Age site was first excavated by Robert Braidwood and the Oriental Institute in the 1930s; Professor Harrison's talk on the site was a compelling way to learn about the palaces, temples, and artifacts that continue to be uncovered there.

The next morning, the group braved the snow for a behind-the-scenes tour of the ROM by Professor Reichel, who was able to give the group exclusive access to the storage areas. Under his guidance, our Visiting Committee members were able to see precious artifacts from Godin Tepe, Turkey, as well as Islamic miniature paintings, stamp seals, and other objects in the ROM collection. A tour of the Wirth Gallery of the Middle East and the Gallery of Egypt further added to our personalized day at the ROM.

As the trip came to an end, the Visiting Committee members and ROM staff concluded their stay with a dinner in Toronto's trendy Yorkville neighborhood.



Figure 3. Carlotta Maher holds a sling bullet from Godin Tepe, Turkey

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE TRAVEL PROGRAM

VOYAGE THROUGH THE RED SEA

JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, SUDAN, & ERITREA

Led by Emily Teeter and other expert lecturers

Aboard the *Clipper Odyssey*

November 6–22, 2011

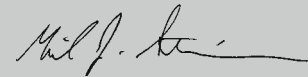
Dear Members of the Oriental Institute,

The clear, warm waters of the Red Sea bathe the shores of exotic desert lands steeped in timeless traditions. An astounding array of archaeological sites offer a link to the world's earliest civilizations, while thriving modern cities set their sights on a future of bright promise. This exciting itinerary includes visits to the fascinating, lesser-traveled countries of Sudan and Eritrea, where, along with remarkable cultural encounters, we explore pristine coral wonderlands on unforgettable underwater adventures.

Our introduction to this corner of the Arab world begins with four nights of exploration in the hospitable country of Jordan — from the beautiful and ancient city of Amman to the breathtaking rose-hued ruins of Petra to T. E. Lawrence's fabled Wadi Rum. In Egypt we will be awed by some of the world's most heralded antiquities — the remote St. Catherine's Monastery, the vast temple complex of Karnak, and the astounding Valley of the Kings. The superbly preserved old town and the colorful souk of Jeddah, gateway to Mecca, welcome us to Saudi Arabia, while daily life continues as it has for centuries in the small port of Suakin, Sudan. Eritrea's ethnic

diversity is evident in Massawa's architectural mélange and the lively café culture of Asmara, while offshore, the sublime islands of the Dahlak Archipelago are a haven for seabirds and a natural paradise for marine life.

This wonderful itinerary will be complemented by scholarly commentary from Emily Teeter, Oriental Institute Research Associate, in addition to other expert lecturers. Emily's many years of experience traveling these routes and her knowledge of and love for the ancient and modern Near East will add enormously to your travel experience. Our exclusive charter aboard the comfortably elegant 110-passenger *Clipper Odyssey* will be shared with like-minded travelers from the Archaeological Institute of America and the Explorers Club. I hope you will join us as we explore the legendary treasures of the Red Sea.



Gil J. Stein

Director, Oriental Institute

Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology

Itinerary:

USA to Jordan | Sunday, November 6

Depart USA

Independent overnight flight to Jordan.

Amman | Monday, November 7

Arrive in Amman this evening and transfer to our hotel for a two-night stay.

Amman | Tuesday, November 8

This morning we set out to explore one of the oldest cities in the world. Spread across nineteen hills, Amman has a busy downtown where modern shops meld with the legacies of ancient civilizations. We visit a palace built by the Umayyad Arabs and a restored Roman theater. The National Archaeological Museum provides an overview of Jordan's heritage. Return to the hotel for a briefing and our welcome dinner.

Amman/Petra | Wednesday, November 9

In the morning we drive south along the King's Highway through the Jordanian countryside, passing the canyon of Wadi al-Mujib en route to the Castle of Kerak. We continue to our hotel in Petra in time for dinner and overnight.

Petra | Thursday, November 10

We rise this morning to visit Petra. We enter the Siq, which opens in to the ancient city. Unfolding before us are rock-cut tombs, temples, and a theater, each carved from iron-rich sandstone. After lunch, those who wish may climb to the monastery or choose to visit the excellent museum before returning to our hotel.

Petra/Wadi Rum/Aqaba/Embark *Clipper Odyssey* | Friday, November 11

We continue southward this morning and arrive in Wadi Rum, the valley made famous by "Lawrence of Arabia." We transfer to 4x4 vehicles for a drive through the formations that tower over the desert floor. We continue to Aqaba, where we board the *Clipper Odyssey* and set sail in the evening.

Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt/Monastery of St. Catherine | Saturday, November 12

Two tour options are available today. Those who wish to visit the Greek Orthodox Monastery of St. Catherine, a World Heritage Site, disembark early this morning for a drive through the Sinai Desert. Enjoy a private visit to this holy site, which preserves the world's



Petra, Jordan

second largest collection of manuscripts, and view the exquisite sixth-century icons. Alternatively, enjoy an excursion to Ras Mohammed, a national park at the southernmost tip of the Sinai Peninsula. Snorkel or dive in crystal-clear waters, which harbor over two hundred species of coral and a thousand species of fish. Return to Sharm el-Sheikh to explore the town on your own.

Safaga/Luxor | Sunday and Monday, November 13 and 14

The following day, we cross the Nile to explore Thebes, a World Heritage Site, and its Valley of the Kings. Cut into the rocky mountainsides are the tombs of Egypt's principal pharaohs, including Tutankhamen. We visit the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut — the only woman who ruled as a pharaoh — constructed at the top of three terraces. Its walls are decorated with hieroglyphs depicting her divine birth. We continue to the colossal statues of King Amenhotep III, which once guarded the largest temple of Thebes. For lunch we board feluccas, traditional Nile sailboats, and cross the Nile back to the west bank, then return to our ship in Safaga. The *Clipper Odyssey* arrives at the port of Safaga today, and we depart for an overnight tour of Luxor. The complex at Karnak was the seat of Amun, "King of the Gods." Ptolemy III built the impressive gate, and we

explore the temple's sanctuaries and walk among obelisks and along the Avenue of the Thousand Sphinxes. After check-in and lunch, we visit the Luxor Temple. Red granite obelisks, the huge Sitting Ramesses II colossus, and Amenhotep's colonnade are highlights. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

At Sea | Tuesday, November 15

As we cruise toward Saudi Arabia, our lecturers prepare us for our cultural experiences to come in Saudi Arabia and Eritrea.

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia | Wednesday, November 16

The Gateway to Mecca and Medina welcomes us as we set out for a walking tour of Jeddah. Many of the traditional houses in this area were built from Red Sea coral and are embellished with intricate wooden carvings. The large souq is a feast for the senses, with vendors extolling the virtues of their spices, incense, and jewelry. We explore the Abdul Raouf Khalil Art Museum, where more than two hundred rooms reveal the history of Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Peninsula. We return to the ship for dinner and set sail for Sudan.

Suakin, Sudan | Thursday, November 17

Situated just south of the harbor of Port Sudan is the old city of Suakin. We go ashore for a tour and step back in time as we walk between buildings constructed of coral blocks. After a folkloric performance, we return to the ship and enjoy an afternoon of snorkeling and diving in the warm, marine-life-rich waters of the Red Sea.

Massawa, Eritrea | Friday, November 18

We arrive in Massawa today and disembark for a tour of the village-turned-port. The architecture still reflects the traditional dry coral and wood-beam construction, with haphazard balconies leaning over the narrow streets. We view the mosque, dhow docks, and bazaar housed in one of the surviving Ottoman buildings.

Dahlak Archipelago | Saturday, November 19

The Dahlak Archipelago is a smattering of nearly two hundred islands, of which only four are inhabited. Seabirds nest here in great profusion, and submerged coral reefs are home to hundreds of marine

species, including dolphins, sharks, and several kinds of turtle. Today we explore the region and enjoy a day of snorkeling and diving.

Massawa/Disembark *Clipper Odyssey*/Asmara | Sunday, November 20

We bid farewell to the *Clipper Odyssey* this morning and drive to Asmara, the friendly capital with lively arts and a café culture. This afternoon we tour the National Museum and the market, with dinner and overnight at our Asmara hotel.

Asmara/Frankfurt, Germany | Monday, November 21

Enjoy a tour of Asmara this morning. We visit the Catholic cathedral, the mosque, and the Coptic cathedral. Return to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure. Following dinner, depart for the airport for your overnight flight to Frankfurt.

Frankfurt/USA | Tuesday, November 22

Arrive Frankfurt this morning and connect with your independent flights homeward.



Sharm el Sheikh

Emily Teeter is an Egyptologist and research associate at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. She received a PhD in Near Eastern languages and civilizations from the same university. Emily is the author of a number of scholarly and popular articles that have been published in journals in the United States and abroad. She has served as a consultant for the Seattle Art Museum and the Art Institute of Chicago and has appeared in a wide variety of film and television productions dealing with the ancient Near East. Emily is very widely traveled in the region, and she has developed and led many

tours to Egypt, Arabia, Turkey, Syria, and Tunisia. She is a member of the Society of Woman Geographers.

Emily will be joined by leaders in additional fields of study including Allan Langdale, Steve Sidebotham, and Ron Wixman.

The Clipper Odyssey is a 110-passenger luxury expedition vessel, ideally suited for expedition cruising. All cabins have an ocean view, safe, minibar, individually controlled heat/air conditioner, in-room music system, and sitting area with sofa. Passengers can track the progress of their voyage on the Global Positioning System broadcast in each cabin. Beds can be configured for twin or queen-size sleeping arrangements. All cabins have an en suite bathroom with shower. The *Clipper Odyssey* maintains a gourmet kitchen, providing American and international specialties. Facilities on board the *Clipper Odyssey* include a dining room, lounge, small library and gym, outdoor pool, massage room, and gift shop. An elevator services all passenger cabin decks. The *Clipper Odyssey* has an infirmary staffed by a registered physician, a fleet of Zodiacs, and a sophisticated telecommunications system permitting Internet access and telephone and fax communication with any location around the world. Ship registry: Bahamas.

Rates:

Category 1 \$11,980
 Category 2 \$12,680
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 Single/Cat. 2 \$19,980
 Single/Cat. 3 \$20,980
 Single/Cat. 4 \$22,680
 Limited singles available at the quoted single rates above. Additional singles may be available at 1.7 times the share rate (suite not applicable).

Included: All gratuities; accommodations in our hotels and on board *Clipper Odyssey* as outlined in the itinerary; all onboard meals; all group meals on land; group transfers; services of the expedition staff, including lectures, briefings, slide/film shows; all group activities and excursions; landing and port fees; \$50,000 of emergency sickness/accident medical expenses and \$75,000 in evacuation insurance.*

Not Included: All air transportation; excess baggage charges; airport arrival and departure taxes; transfers for independent arrivals and departures; passport and/or visa fees; accident/baggage/cancellation insurance; items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar charges, alcoholic beverages, e-mail/Internet/fax/telephone charges.*

Airfare: A tentative flight schedule is available upon request. Zegrahm Expeditions will contact you approximately 180 days prior to the departure of this program to finalize your flight plans. As of April 2011, the approximate economy air fare as listed in the itinerary is \$1,495 for New York/Amman–Asmara/Frankfurt/New York. Additional fares from other cities will be quoted as needed. All rates are per person, are quoted in U.S. dollars, and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Rates and itineraries are subject to change.



St. Catherine's Monastery, Sinai

Disclaimer: For most activities, a relatively low level of exertion is required. You must be able to walk moderate distances over uneven surfaces and sometimes rough terrain. Travel to this part of the world requires sensitivity to local cultures and customs — during our time in Saudi Arabia, women will be provided with an *abaya*, a robe-like garment that covers from shoulder to foot, and will be



Amphitheater, Amman

expected to cover their heads. In the rest of the counties on this itinerary, women will not be expected to cover their heads, though they should be prepared to wear long sleeves and long pants or skirts, and all participants may be asked to remove their shoes when visiting religious sites. *For a full list of inclusions, exclusions, and Terms & Conditions, please contact the Oriental Institute Membership Office.

To register for Voyage to the Red Sea, please contact the Membership Office at oi-membership@uchicago.edu or call (773) 834-9777.

BEFORE THE PYRAMIDS MEMBERS' PREVIEW

Meghan Winston, Special Events Coordinator

On March 28th, Oriental Institute Members enjoyed an exclusive preview of *Before the Pyramids: The Origins of Egyptian Civilization*, a special exhibit showcasing artifacts and detailing the history and archaeology of Predynastic Egypt.

After Gil Stein, Director of the Oriental Institute, welcomed all guests, Emily Teeter, Guest Curator of our special exhibit, gave a presentation on the exhibit and detailed recent research on Predynastic Egypt.

Following Teeter's lecture, guests were invited to tour the exhibit in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery and to enjoy a reception with food from *Amazing Edibles* in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery. Members enjoyed delectable hors d'oeuvres in addition to a special expansion of the Suq, which featured specially ordered merchandise and autographed copies of the exhibit catalog.

A special thank-you goes out to Gil Stein, Steve Camp, Emily Teeter, Maeve Reed, Erik Lindahl, Brian Zimerle, and Adam Lubin for all they did to ensure the night's success.



Photos: Oriental Institutes Members take a first look at the special new exhibit, *Before the Pyramids* (Photos by Anna Ressler)



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THE SUQ

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NEW AT THE SUQ



Egyptian Black-topped Ware

Handmade exclusively for the Suq by Master Potters in Wisconsin

14 oz. mug \$17.55

16 oz. vase \$21.15

This distinctive style of pottery was popular throughout Egypt in the Badarian and Naqada I–II periods (ca. 4400–3300 BC). Black-topped vessels were valuable luxury items, created by professional craftsmen in special-

ized workshops. Black-topped ware was hand-made (not wheel-thrown) out of Nile silt clay. It is characterized by its distinctive colors, thin walls, and lustrous finish. Ancient potters achieved the polished look by burnishing the pots with pebbles. The black top was probably created by placing the pot upside-down in ash either during or immediately after firing. This process not only created an attractive bi-color appearance, but also helped make the clay less porous.

Safe in microwaves, ovens, and dishwashers.