University Museum Research Projects

Sumerian Dictionary Project
Director: Dr. Åke W. Sjöberg
(Babylonian Section, University
Museum)

Sponsors: University Museum, National Endowment for the Humanities, Phoebe T. Haas Trust

The Pennsylvania Sumerian Dictionary Project was initiated in 1976. The aim of the Project is to produce the first comprehensive dictionary of the world's first written language, Sumerian. This dictionary will appear in eighteen volumes, each one devoted to a letter. The first volume to appear, volume B, was published in 1984. The staff of three curators and three research assistants is currently working on volume A, which will be more than three times the size of B. The Sumerian Dictionary gives meanings of words together with evidence for their usage, much as the Oxford English Dictionary. The Dictionary

Sumerian legend of the Flood, Nippur, ca. 1700 B.C.

is composed from the 30,000 cuneiform tablets in The University Museum and more than 500,000 file cards. It is written on an up-to-date

computer system.

The Sumerian Dictionary Project and the research that flows from it serve to keep The University Museum in the forefront of cuneiform studies, as it has been since the first expedition to Iraq in 1888.

Egyptian Section: Philological Research and Publication

Abydos. The Pennsylvania-Yale Expedition to Abydos recovered many inscriptions and written documents in a variety of forms; all are of importance in the reconstruction of the history and function of different parts of the site. William Kelly Simpson (Yale University; University Museum) is preparing many inscribed stelae and other items dating from Old Kingdom times to the Late Period (ca. 2500-300 B.C.) for publication, as well as many ostraca (inscribed stone fragments and sherds), some relating to the building of a temple. David O'Connor (University Museum) is working on a group of Middle Kingdom stelae that came from the unique 'cenotaphs' or memorial chapels discovered by the Expedition, as well as some miscellaneous inscribed material. David Silverman (University Museum) directed the copying of many fragmentary texts and scenes from an important temple of Ramesses II and will publish these. Kapure. The stone funerary chapel of



The tomb of Kapure, an official of the treasury in the Old Kingdom, comes from Saqqara and dates to the end of the Fifth Dynasty to the beginning of the Sixth.

the official named Kapure (ca. 2300 B.C.) is one of the great treasures of The University Museum but has

never been properly published. The chapel walls are covered with important biographical and religious texts and with scenes of ritual and daily life (the latter include conversations between the workers). David Silverman is preparing a publication on this unusual monument in a form useful to both scholars and the general public.

Current Fieldwork

County Wicklow, Ireland—survey & field research

Director: B. Wailes (UM)

Sponsor: University Museum

La Quina, France—survey & fi

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Assoc. Director: H. Dibble (UM) Co-sponsors: University Museum, University of Arizona, University of Bordeaux, Musée des Antiquités Nationales

Gla, Greece—excavation
Director: S. Iakovidis (UM)
Sponsor: Archaeological Society at
Athens; participation by and
training of University of
Pennsylvania students funded by

University Museum

Wadi al-Jubah, Yemen—survey & test excavation

Chief Archaeologist: J. Sauer (UM); Field Directors: J. Blakely (Univ. of Pennsylvania), A. Ghaleb (Univ. of Sanaa)

Sponsor: American Foundation for the Study of Man; participant: University Museum

Gritille, Turkey—excavation
Director: R. Ellis (Bryn Mawr
College); Senior Archaeologist in
Charge of Excavation: M. Voigt
(UM)

Sponsors: Bryn Mawr College, University of North Carolina; participant (1981–84): University Museum

Abydos, Egypt

a) excavation of core area
 Directors: D. O'Connor (UM),
 W. K. Simpson (Yale Univ.)
 Sponsors: University Museum,
 Yale University

b) regional survey
Supervisor: D. O'Connor;
Director: D. C. Patch (UM)
Sponsors: University Museum,
Yale University

 c) Ramesses II Temple, field recording and study Director: D. Silverman (UM) Sponsors: University Museum, Yale University

Marsa Matruh—survey Director: D. White (UM) Sponsor: University Museum

Rojdi, India—excavation Director: G. Possehl (UM) Sponsors: University Museum, Gujarat State Department of Archaeology Thailand Archaeometallurgy Project—survey

Directors: V. Pigott (UM), P.

Charoenwongsa, S. Natapintu (Thai Fine Arts Dept.)

Sponsors: University Museum, Thai Fine Arts Dept.

Northern Thai Ethnohistory Project—survey & field research

Director: H. Peters (UM) Co-sponsors: The Institute for the Study of Human Issues, Tribal Research Center in Thailand,

University Museum

The Bugis, South Sulawesi province, Indonesia—anthropological & ethnographic study

Director: W. Davenport (UM) Sponsor: University Museum

Minangkabau, West Sumatra anthropological/ethnohistorical study

Director: P. Sanday (Univ. of Pennsylvania)

Sponsor: University Museum

Silver Reef, Utah—excavation & archival research

Director: R. Schuyler (UM) Sponsor: University Museum

Bay of Honduras, Central America

Director: Ř. Sharer (UM) Sponsor: University Museum

Analysis and Publication Projects

Dun Ailinne, Ireland—B. Wailes (UM)

University Museum collection of Greek & Greek-related figured pottery—Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum

K. DeVries, R. Edwards (UM)

Gordion, Turkey

Committee: R. H. Dyson, Jr., K. DeVries, K. Vellucci (UM), M. Mellink (Bryn Mawr), K. Sams (Univ. of N. Carolina, Chapel Hill); Series Editor, E. Kohler

Sumerian Dictionary Project Director: A. Sjoberg (UM); co-investigators, E. Leichty, B. Eichler (UM)

Sponsors: NEH, University Museum, Phoebe T. Haas Trust

Mesopotamian Metals Project
Directors: R. H. Dyson, Jr., J. D.
Muhly (UM); co-investigators: S.
Fleming, V. Pigott, T. Stech (UM)
Sponsors: NEH, UM (MASCA)

Sarepta, Lebanon

J. Pritchard (UM)

Tell es-Sa'idiyeh, Jordan J. Pritchard (UM)

Tell Hesban, Jordan

Principal Investigator: J. Sauer (UM) Sponsor: Andrews University (MI); participant: University Museum

Baq'ah Valley, Jordan P. McGovern (UM)

Hasanlu Project, Iran Committee: R. H. Dyson, Jr., Maude de Schauensee, Mary Virginia Harris, Mary Voigt (UM)

Sponsors: University Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Iranian Center for Archaeological Research

Malyan, Iran

Director: W. M. Sumner (Ohio State Univ.)

Sponsors: University Museum, Ohio State University

Tepe Hissar, Iran R. H. Dyson, Jr. (UM)

Sponsors: University Museum, Turin University, Iranian Center for Archaeological Research

Tepe Hissar Skeletal Material
F. Johnston (Univ. of Pennsylvania),
MASCA

Cyrene, Libya D. White (UM)

Mohenjo Daro, Pakistan G. Dales (Univ. of California, Berkeley)

Sponsor: University Museum

Hellenistic and Roman Influences on the Ceramics of Eastern and Western India Director: V. Begley (UM)

Sponsors: Smithsonian Institution, University Museum

Ban Chiang, Thailand G. Possehl, J. White (UM) Sponsors: University Museum, Thai Fine Arts Department

Solomon Islands, S. Pacific W. Davenport (UM)

Iron Production in the Northeastern United States

H. Schenck (UM), MASCA

University Museum North American Collections

S. Kaplan (UM)

Tikal, Guatemala W. Coe (UM)

Quirigua, Guatemala R. Sharer (UM)

Verapaz Survey, Guatemala R. Sharer (UM)