



old world archaeologist

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study unit

George Holland, Editor
P. O. Box 1585
Florence, Oregon 97439
E-mail: gwhstamp@presys.com

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President

Merle Farrington
Medway, Massachusetts

E-mail: merle.farrington@fmglobal.com

Immediate Past President

Eileen Meier
Palmyra, Virginia

Address membership information to:

Secretary-Treasurer
Eileen Meier
P. O. Box 369
Palmyra, Virginia 22963

Trustees

Irene Moose
McLean, Virginia
E-mail: moose1@erols.com

Caroline Scannell
Smithtown, New York
E-mail: philate@ix.netcom.com

Francis Adams
San Diego, California
fadams@aol.com

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SIFTING THE DIRT

Well, I've reached that point again — all the other 15 pages have been read, re-read, and then looked over once again. All that's left is the little notes reminding me to mention this or that. I'm sorry this issue is a few weeks late — hopefully the next issue, the June edition, will be out the first week in July. I still hate deadlines but I do love the work.

Once again, thanks to Hugh Johnston and George Rohrer

Some people you can really count on, and you want to be careful never to take them for granted. Two special people this quarter are Hugh Johnston with his story about hieroglyphics and royal names, and George Rohrer concerning France's oldest church and the recent stamp in the French Art Series. In the next issue we will look at Monuments of Angkor through the courtesy of Nguyen-Bao-Tung, and Eileen Meier will report on the Taliban folks and archaeological sites.

The Explorator is for you

Several stories in this issue were first discovered on the web site *The Explorator*. It comes out every Sunday morning, edited by David Meadows, and features all the news of archaeology throughout the world over the past week. The site also contains the web page addresses of the periodicals checked and a connecting internet address that you click on and the story comes onto your screen. The service is free and is one of the most valuable on the internet. It's part of my Sunday ritual. E-mail them at:

explorator@yahogroups.com

Looking for information on rock/cave paintings/art

New member Herman Goldstein is looking for fellow collectors of stamps commemorating rock and cave painting. The first that comes to mind is several in the south Africa area, and recent articles by George Rohrer. If you'd like to answer him, check the next paragraph on new procedures to use.

OWASU Secretary will act as forwarding agent

Eileen Meier, our secretary-treasurer, wants to begin a new process for members wanting to contact another member. The Board of Directors feel that publishing member's addresses is not a good policy nowadays, but wants members to be able to contact each other. She proposes that if an OWASU member wishes to correspond with an *Old World Archaeologist* author, they would send her a stamped and sealed envelope with the OWASU member's name on the envelope. She would then fill in the address and send the letter on its way. It would be up to the author whether to contact the letter writer. Eileen's address is printed in the adjoining masthead. If you want to contact the editor of *OWA*, however, please do so directly at his address in the masthead.

A perplexed editor

"Now what is he going to get started on now," I can hear your thought process! Well when I was researching the story on Mar'ib, I came across a strange accented letter. Several times I ran into an "h" with a dot under it. I try to be very careful to put in the accented letters from my character font. But the "h" with a dot under it is not listed. I checked the dictionary (American Heritage) and the only references to letters with dots under them were "s" and "r", and they were apparently from early Sanskrit. It seemed to me that each time the "h" was used in Mohammad's name or an Imâm's name it had the dot under it. So the search is afoot. Drop me a card if you know of the origin or what effect the dot has on the pronunciation or accentuation of the letter. Now that wasn't so bad, was it?