



ORIENTAL INSTITUTE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



# We Start Here: The OI at 100

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**The OI aims to understand, reveal, and protect ancient civilizations**

**100 years of fieldwork**

# OI History

James Henry Breasted established the OI in 1919

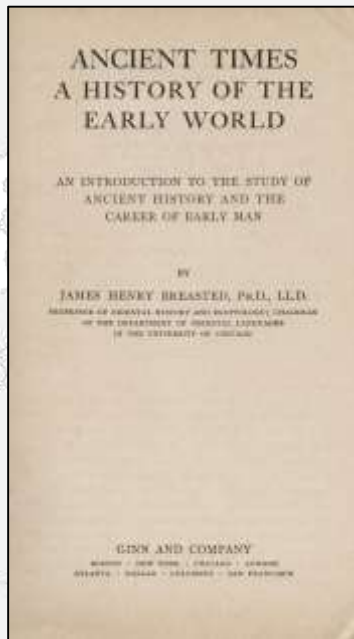
## Fertile Crescent



# OI Foundation



James Henry Breasted



*Ancient Times*

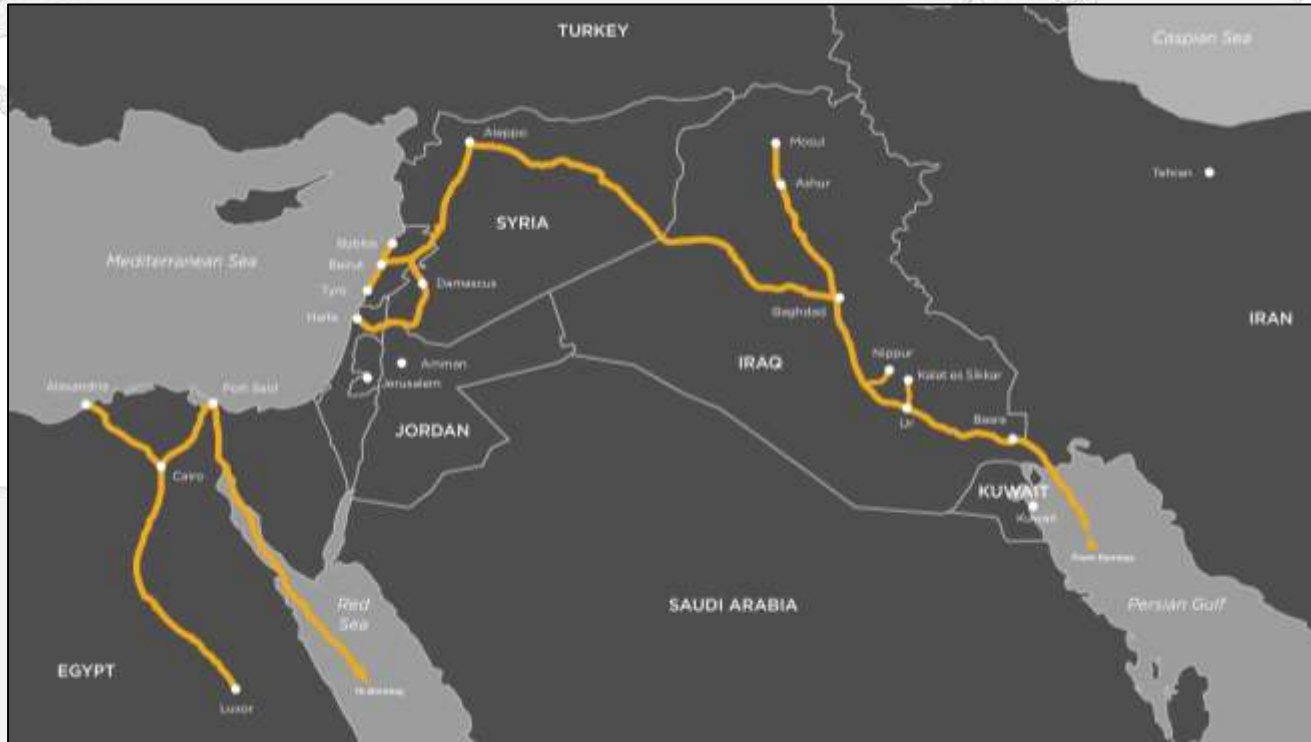


John D. Rockefeller, Jr



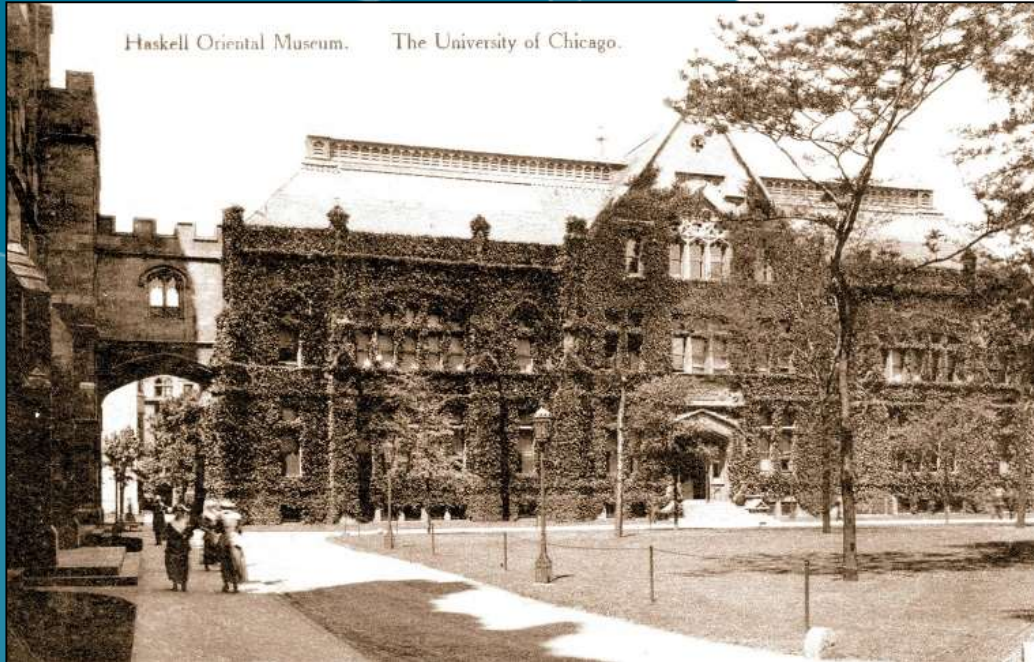
Breasted in Egypt

# OI First Expedition, 1919–20

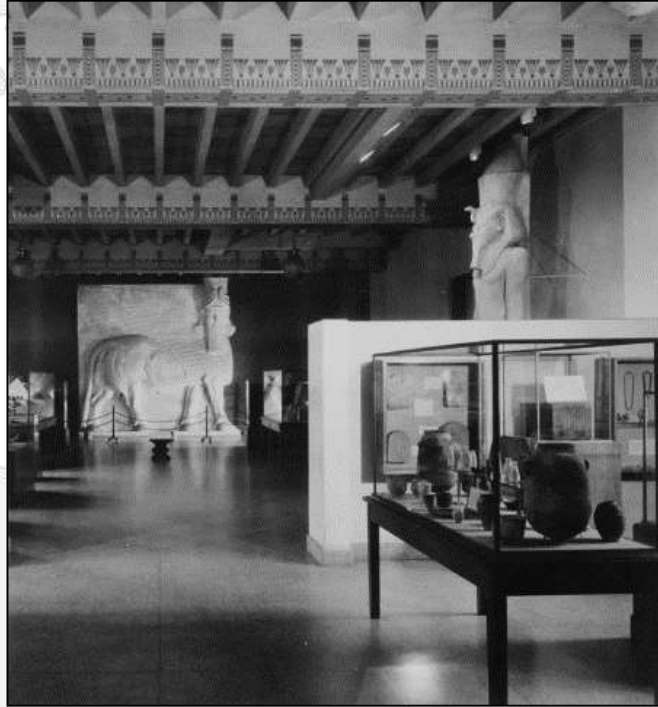




# Oriental Institute Museum



# OI Museum



1931



Today

# Multi-million-dollar reinstallation of Museum for OI centennial



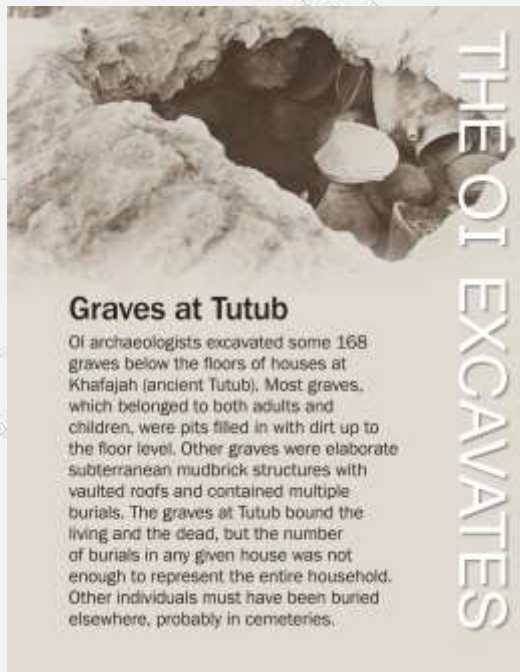
Mesopotamia



Egypt



# Reinstallation of OI Museum: New stories



## Graves at Tutub

OI archaeologists excavated some 168 graves below the floors of houses at Khafajah (ancient Tutub). Most graves, which belonged to both adults and children, were pits filled in with dirt up to the floor level. Other graves were elaborate subterranean mudbrick structures with vaulted roofs and contained multiple burials. The graves at Tutub bound the living and the dead, but the number of burials in any given house was not enough to represent the entire household. Other individuals must have been buried elsewhere, probably in cemeteries.

## Stop the Looting

Visible in this 2013 photograph of the site of Umma are the holes dug by looters searching for artifacts to sell illegally. There is a long history of looting at Iraqi archaeological sites. When the OI Iraq Expedition began excavating Khafajah (ancient Tutub) in 1930, deep robber holes had cut away large portions of the ancient settlement. Thousands of archaeological sites have been looted in Iraq, and the looting hasn't stopped.



# Reinstallation of OI Museum: New objects



Persia gallery: Persepolis relief



# Reinstallation of OI Museum: New spaces



*Thousand and One Nights*



## OI Museum: Centennial installations featuring contemporary artists



Michael Rakowitz





## OI: Centennial installations featuring contemporary artists



*AEON* by Ann Hamilton at the Joe and Rika Mansueto Library

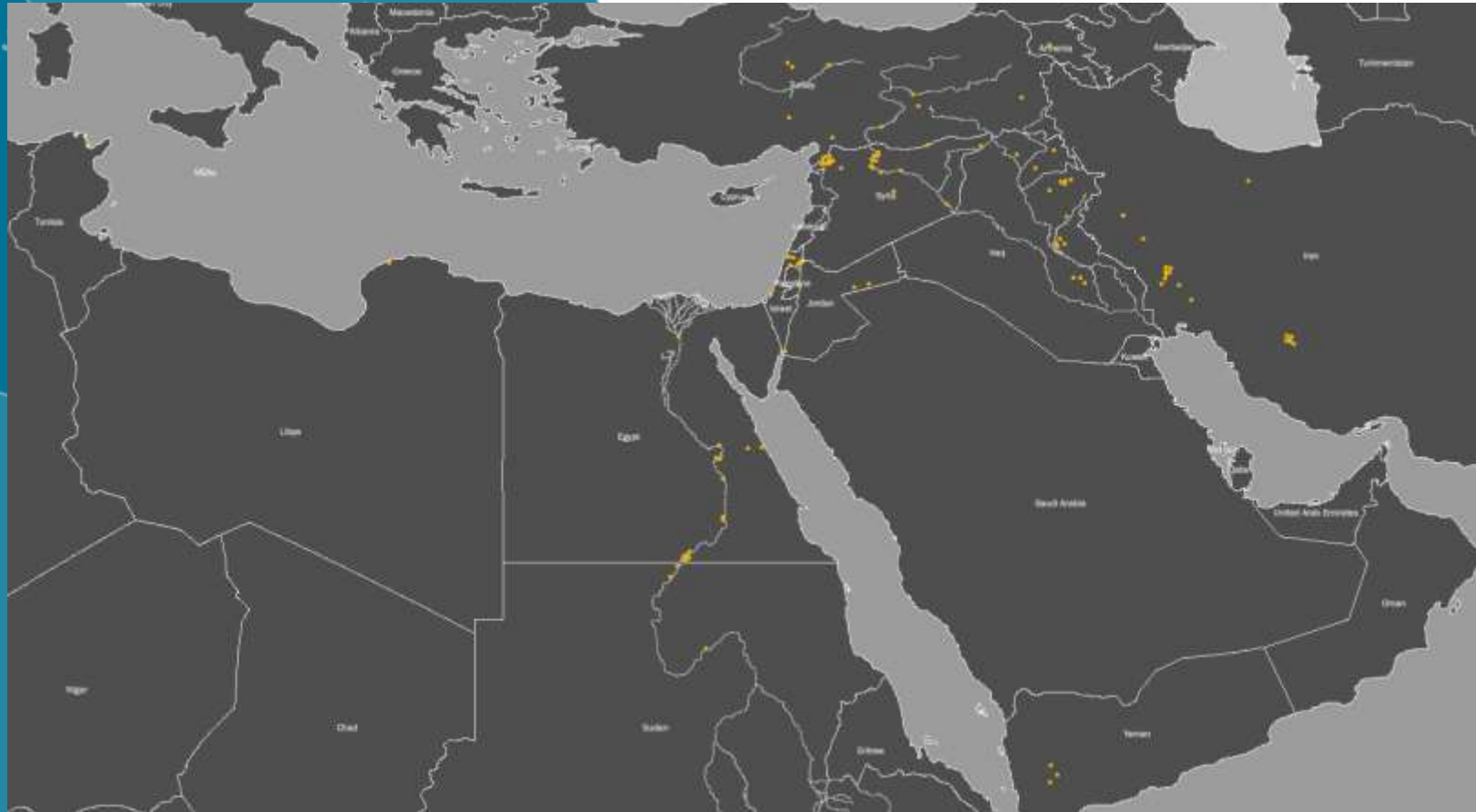
## OI Museum: Centennial installations featuring contemporary artists



Mohamad Hafez

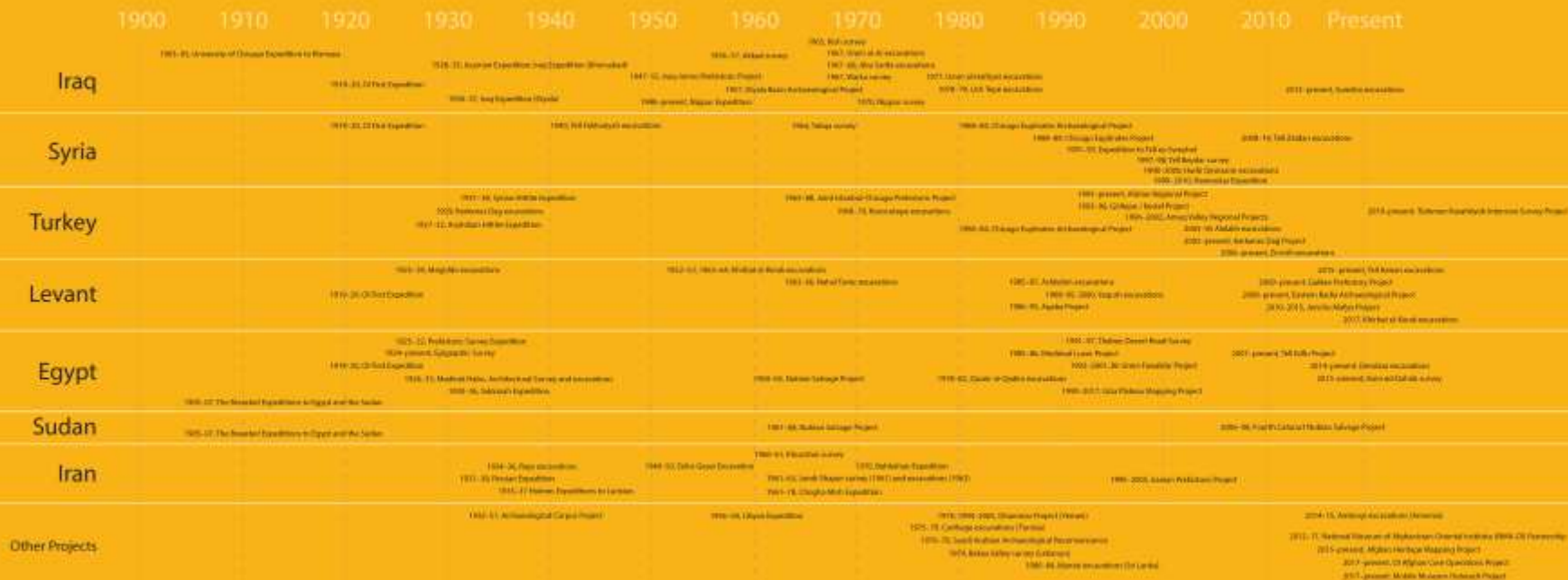


# Ol Archaeology



# OI Archaeology

## Timeline of OI Field Projects





# Nippur Expedition (1948–90; 2019–present)



# Nippur Expedition (1948–90; 2019–present)



Ziggurat of Enlil



Ur-Namma foundation deposit

# Nippur Expedition (1948–90; 2019–present)



Inana Temple





# Nippur Expedition (2019)





# Nippur Expedition (2019)



# The Tell Edfu Project (2007–present)



# The Tell Edfu Project (2007–present)



Ancient city (ca. 2400 BCE–725 CE) and Ptolemaic temple (237–57 BCE)

# The Tell Edfu Project (2007–present)





# The Tell Edfu Project (2007–present)



# Türkmen-Karahöyük Intensive Survey Project 2019

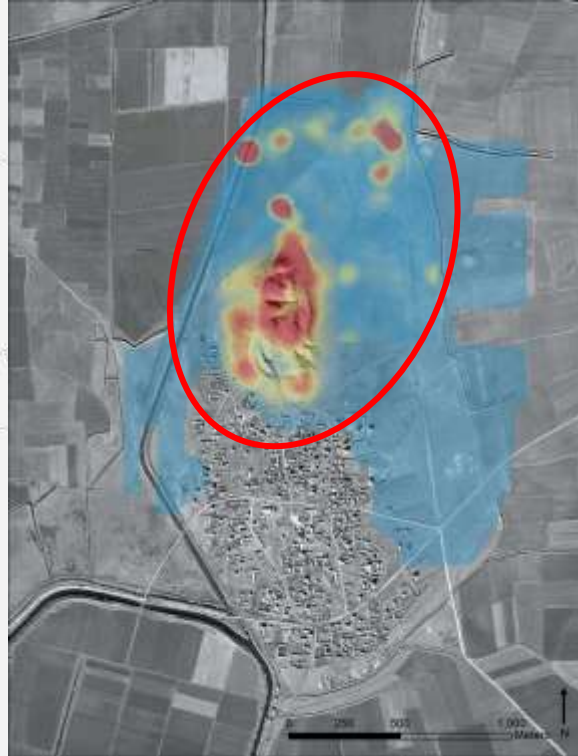


# Türkmen-Karahöyük Intensive Survey Project 2019





# Türkmen-Karahöyük Intensive Survey Project 2019



# Türkmen-Karahöyük Intensive Survey Project 2019



# OI language projects

## Timeline of OI Language Projects





# OI Dictionaries



# Chicago Assyrian Dictionary (CAD): 26 volumes, 1921–2011



*“Creating the Mesopotamian Equivalent of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED)”*



# Chicago House



# Chicago House at Luxor, Egypt



Egypt, Luxor, 1930s aerial view of Chicago House

Home of the Epigraphic Survey

# Chicago House at Luxor, Egypt



Training Egyptian conservation students

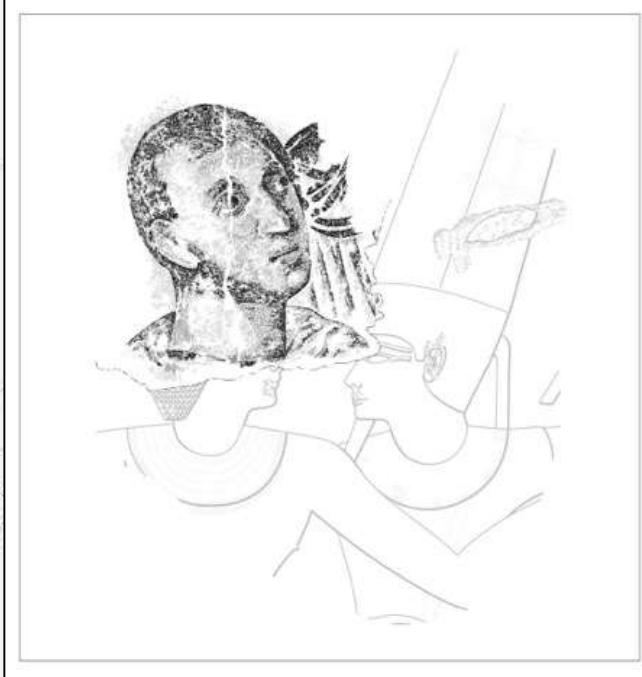
# Chicago House at Luxor, Egypt



Luxor Temple



# Chicago House at Luxor, Egypt



Luxor Temple: Facsimile Documentation of Imperial Roman Frescos

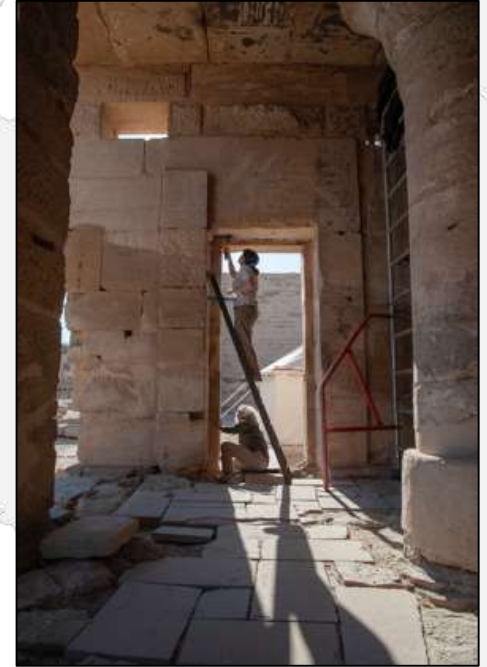
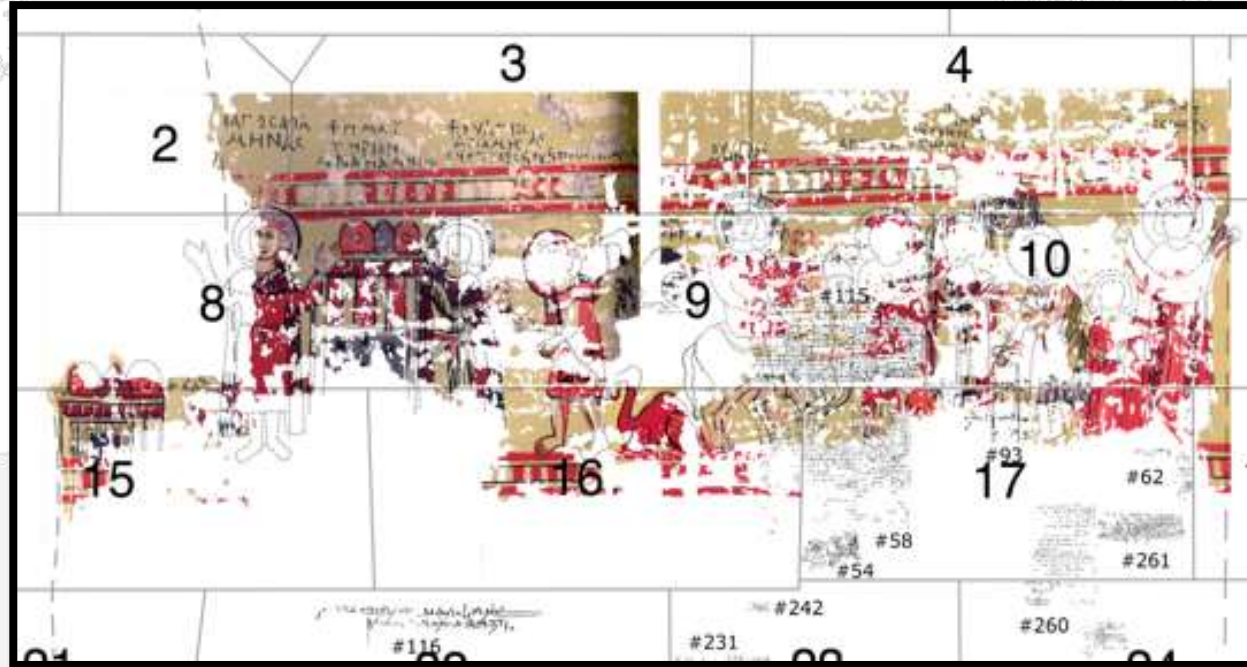
# Chicago House at Luxor, Egypt



Medinet Habu



# Chicago House at Luxor, Egypt



Medinet Habu Graffiti Project: Digital drawings of Demotic, Coptic, and figurative graffiti



# Cultural Heritage





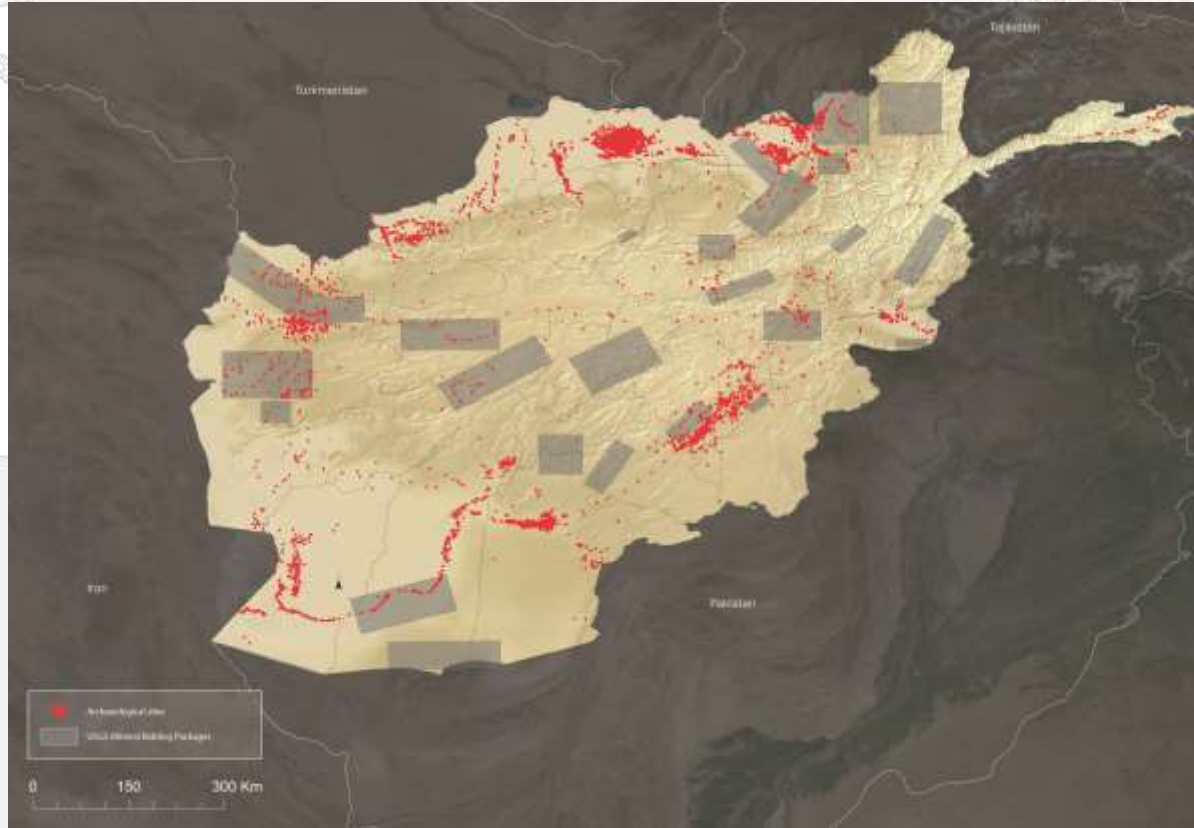
# Afghanistan: US Department of State grants (2012–present)



National Museum of Afghanistan



# Afghan Heritage Mapping Project





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**Thank you!**

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