

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN CARSWELL (1931–2023)

John Carswell, ISAC Museum curator from 1978 to 1985 and a specialist in Middle Eastern art and archaeology, passed away in January 2023.

Born in London, he graduated from the Royal College of Art in 1951 and began working extensively overseas with prominent scholars such as Kathleen Kenyon, Seton Lloyd, Sinclair Hood, and Alan Wace. After five years as a professional archaeology designer, he received a professorial appointment at the American University of Beirut, where he remained for twenty years. Promoted to full professor in 1967, he served also as secretary for the University Research Board, as chairman of the Department of Fine Arts on multiple occasions, and on the University Senate. After the Lebanese Civil War began, he resigned from the university in 1976 and spent the remainder of the year as a research fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.



A very active scholar, he focused specifically on the study of Islamic ceramics and the import of Chinese vessels to the Near East. He authored numerous books, including two reference monographs—one on seventeenth-century Armenian churches in Isfahan, Iran (Clarendon Press), and another on Kütahya tiles and pottery from Jerusalem's Cathedral of St. James (Oxford University Press). Apart from his scholarly activities, he also produced works of art, which he exhibited in various shows in Europe and the United States, including a one-man exhibition of paintings and small objects at the Fischbach Gallery in New York City.

One of his first projects at ISAC was curating a show honoring and focused on the photographs of Ursula Schneider, ISAC photographer from 1942 to 1973. The exhibition, titled *Images of the Thirties* and emphasizing sculpture and architecture in particular, was also shown in the Bergman Family Gallery at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art and received outstanding reviews from the Chicago art press.

After leaving his position as ISAC Museum curator, he pursued his career as director of the University of Chicago's David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art from 1985 to 1987. He then returned to Britain, where he headed the Islamic department of Sotheby's in London. He retired with his wife, Peggy, who died in 2021, to a home they had restored in Malaga, Spain.

We express our deepest condolences to Prof. Carswell's family, friends, and colleagues. He was a memorable scholar, a talented artist, and a formidable advocate of Middle Eastern studies.

ARTHUR L. HERBST (1931–2023)

ISAC's immediate past Advisory Council chair, Dr. Arthur L. Herbst, passed away in June 2023 at the age of ninety-one. His service on the Advisory Council began in 2001.

Arthur was born to Jerome and Blanche (Vatz) Herbst in New York City in 1931. When he was two years old, his family moved to Pittsburgh, where he spent his youth. He was a strong student and enjoyed playing sports. During college at Harvard, he rowed lightweight crew and studied physics. While fulfilling his active-duty service requirement in the Navy as a line officer, he reconsidered his life path and shifted

IN MEMORIAM



from law to medicine. He attended Harvard Medical School, where he also completed a residency and won the Borden Research Award for work in endocrinology.

Arthur started out in practice as an attending physician at Massachusetts General Hospital. Always listening carefully to his patients, he noticed that a few young women with a rare cervical cancer had mothers who had taken the drug diethylstilbestrol during pregnancy to help prevent miscarriage. This observation led him to publish a seminal study that alerted doctors and patients to the potential health risks of prenatal exposure to drugs. For this research, he received the Francis Stone Burns Award from the American Cancer Society.

In 1976, Arthur became chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Chicago. Over the next twenty-four years, he served on multiple medical boards, published more than 180 articles, and gave lectures around the world. He was known to be intelligent, disciplined, hardworking, full of integrity, and unfailingly reliable in all aspects of his life. He could be counted on to provide calm and helpful counsel. He took every call and always did his best to support anyone who needed medical care, whether it was a patient, a family member, or the friend of a friend.

Arthur loved to learn, achieve, and compete. He took Spanish lessons in his seventies and swimming lessons in his eighties. He actively played tennis until he was eighty-eight. In retirement, he and his wife, Lee, split their time between Chicago and Tucson, Arizona. In addition to his service on ISAC's Advisory Council, including two terms as chair, he served as a member and chair of the University of Arizona's Department of Science visiting committee, leveraging his experience as a clinician, scientist, and administrator. Having always felt grateful for the scholarships that enabled him to attend college and medical school, Arthur and Lee established scholarship funds at Harvard, the University of Chicago, and the University of Arizona.

NEIL J. KING (1929-2023)

Neil J. King died in May 2023 at the age of ninety-three. He had served on the Advisory Council since 1999.

Neil was born in September 1929 in Chicago and raised in Skokie, Illinois. After graduating from Evanston Township High School, he headed to Yale University, where he was a champion Ivy League pole vaulter. Following his graduation from Yale, he served as a Navy officer during the Korean War. Following his naval service, he returned to Skokie to join his father in Armond King Real Estate as a broker, appraiser, and counselor. He served as president of the North Shore Board of Realtors and of the Counselors of Real Estate. Very active in business and civic affairs, in addition to the ISAC Advisory Council, Neil served on many boards, including that of Skokie Valley Hospital (now North Shore Skokie Hospital) for fifty years. He loved the Skokie Public Library and the Skokie Rotary Club, where he and his father both served as president and whose meetings he attended weekly even after moving to Chicago.



Always up for an adventure, in 1975 Neil sailed across the Atlantic Ocean with his teenage son in a thirty-six-foot sailboat. He was an enthusiastic member of the Chicago Adventurers' Club, enthraling his grandchildren with shrunken heads, a giant stuffed bear, and flags suspended from the ceiling commemorating several of his escapades. A natural athlete, he competed well into his seventies as a decathlete, a marathoner, and a runner.

KATHLEEN PICKEN (1950–2023)

Kathleen “Kitty” Picken passed away in January 2023 at the age of seventy-three. She first joined the Advisory Council in 2009.

Kitty was born in Chicago in 1950 and adopted by a loving couple, Robert and Doris Picken, who owned the Peerless Confection Company, which produced the original and ever-popular Starlight Mints. They gave their little girl every advantage that the Hyde Park neighborhood had to offer. When Kitty was three, she broke a leg, and Doris took her to the Oriental Institute (ISAC) on the University of Chicago campus because it was wheelchair accessible. By the time she was four, she had already given her first tour of the Museum. After Doris died in 1975, Bob married Rita Tallent, who shared Kitty’s passion for ISAC. When the Institute began its docent training program, Kitty and Rita were among the very first to sign up.

Kitty’s dedication to ISAC never waned. She developed a particular interest in Nubia, ancient Egypt’s southern neighbor. In the 2000s, Kitty and Rita funded the Institute’s permanent gallery dedicated to Nubia, the Robert F. Picken Family Nubian Gallery, which remains the only permanent gallery in the United States dedicated to this ancient African civilization.

Through her interest in Nubia, Kitty established a partnership with University of Michigan archaeologist Geoff Emberling. Kitty encouraged Geoff to begin a new field project in Sudan on the ancient empire of Kush, offering financial, intellectual, and moral support. Her continuing support of his excavations led to more collaborative archaeological practices that included Sudanese colleagues and engaged the local communities.

Her passion for archaeology and education inspired her to support the creation of an archaeology major at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky. She loved to meet with the students there and share her stories and experiences with them. Kitty was embraced by the Berea community and happily traveled abroad with students from many programs, participating in tours of Ireland, Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia. A lifelong world traveler and former professional tour guide, Kitty had many more trips planned, including repeat trips to Great Britain and Iceland.

Kitty’s love for music and the performing arts continued a family tradition. Kitty endowed the Rita Tallent Picken Regional Center for Arts and Humanities at the University of Wisconsin–Parkside, a building affectionately called “The Rita.” She was a supporter of the Des Moines Metro Opera and a member of the President’s Society at Simpson College in her ancestral hometown of Indianola, Iowa, where she moved in her later years.

**JOHN W. ROWE (1945–2022)**

John W. Rowe passed away in September 2022 at the age of seventy-seven. He had served as a member of the Advisory Council since 1999, including several years as chair.

Long one of Chicago’s most prominent business and civic leaders, John was chairman emeritus of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation, an electric utility serving Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, DC. He led Exelon from its formation in 2000 through the completion of its acquisition of Constellation Energy in 2012. Previously, he held chief executive officer positions at the New England Electric System and Central Maine Power Company, served as general counsel of Consolidated Rail Corporation, and was a partner in the law firm of Isham, Lincoln & Beale.



IN MEMORIAM

John was a past chairman of Edison Electric Institute. He was the nonexecutive chairman of the board of SunCoke Energy and previously served on the boards of Northern Trust, Allstate, UnumProvident, and Bank Boston. In addition to his service as a member and prior chair of ISAC's Advisory Council, he was a former chairman of the board of trustees of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and chairman of the Commercial Club of Chicago, the Chicago History Museum, the Field Museum, and the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). He was a member of the boards of the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Artis-Naples, Kids First Chicago, the Illinois Network of Charter Schools, New Horizons of Southwest Florida, the Northwestern University Settlement House, and the Pritzker Military Library, as well as a past president of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. He was a cochair of the American Business Immigration Coalition.

John and his wife, Jeanne, founded two professorships of architecture and a chair in sustainable energy at IIT, as well as the Rowe Chair in the History of American Politics, the Rowe Professorship in Byzantine History, and the Rowe Professorship in Greek History at the University of Wisconsin; the Rowe Center for Research in Virology at the Morgridge Institute; the Curator of Evolutionary Biology at the Field Museum; and ISAC's own Rowe Professorship in Ancient Near Eastern Studies.

Ardent supporters of education at every level, in Chicago the Rowes cofounded the Rowe-Clark Math and Science Academy and the Rowe Elementary and Middle Schools. They also served as patrons of the Pope Saint John Paul II School.

John earned his undergraduate and law degrees at the University of Wisconsin, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and the Order of the Coif. He also received that university's Distinguished Alumni Award. He was awarded honorary doctorates by the University of Wisconsin, DePaul University, IIT, Drexel University, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Bryant College, Thomas College, and Dominican University.
