

PREP SHOP

Erik Lindahl

The last year has been another exciting one from the perspective of the Prep Shop. The special exhibits program has continued, researchers have come and gone, and the Museum has begun a donor-funded project to replace all of the freestanding display cases, upgrade the lighting, and refresh the graphics in the galleries (see *Museum* report, above). The shop would like to thank Josh Tulisiak for all his hard work this year. His design and production work has been excellent and he has proven himself a valuable resource.

The special exhibits program focused on the closing of *In Remembrance of Me* and the opening of *A Cosmopolitan City: Muslims, Christian, and Jews in Old Cairo*. Working with Tasha Vorderstrasse, Tanya Treptow, and Donald Whitcomb to develop the exhibit was a pleasure. Matt Federico and Bartosz Gal were a great help during production and the exhibit changeover.

The Museum continued its program of mini-exhibits with the installation of *Cairo in Chicago*, *A Threatened Heritage*, and *Doing Business in the Ancient World*. The Preparation and Exhibit Design Department played an important role in designing and installing all these projects.

Some of the collections-management projects of note were the installation of more pallet racking in heavy-objects storage and the uncrating of large objects for the Achemenet project.

The Prep Shop always works closely with the Conservation Lab. One of our main collaborations this year was to design and build a height-adjustable work platform for use during the conservation of an ancient Egyptian coffin (fig. 20; and see *Conservation* report, above). We also worked together to produce object mounts for an exhibit loan to the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World.



Figure 21. Josh Tulisiak inspects prints before delivery to the Gala



Figure 22. Museum activity cart near completion

The Oriental Institute gala was this year. In order to help bring the OI to the gala, which was held at the Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Chicago, the Prep Shop produced and delivered a series of large-format prints on canvas of key artifacts from the collections (fig. 21).

Last year the Education Department approached the Prep Shop about helping them to design and produce a museum activity cart (fig. 22; and see *Public Education* report). The Prep Shop gladly agreed and the first cart was completed and put into service this year.

As always the Prep Shop has continued with its maintenance and organizational duties. We have been maintaining the exhibit lighting and keeping the galleries clean with the assistance of our student worker Adam Bierstedt. We also enlisted the help of student worker Christian Leavitt to digitally archive all of our blueprints.

The next year will be a busy one with the gallery enhancements project in full swing, the delivery/installation of new display cases, and the production/installation of *Persepolis: Images of an Empire*.
