

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT ALIBER

A longtime supporter of ISAC, Robert Aliber passed away in June 2025 at the age of ninety-four. He was an internationally acclaimed emeritus professor of international economics and finance at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, where he contributed significantly to the development of the school's international business concentration. A renowned economist, Bob loved to travel and was fond of sports—especially flying his plane and glider. He and his late wife, Deborah, a longtime ISAC volunteer, were deeply dedicated supporters of ISAC's work and mission. Their generous contributions to many of our programs and projects over the years culminated in their gift to name the ISAC Museum's Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery.



MARGARET DE JONG

Epigraphic Survey artist Margaret De Jong grew up in Chicago's North Center neighborhood and earned a bachelor of fine arts degree at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1962. She held positions as a freelance artist and scientific illustrator with the California Academy of Sciences and Chicago's Field Museum before joining ISAC's Epigraphic Survey in Egypt in 1992. In Luxor, Margaret quickly mastered the Chicago House drawing method and excelled at capturing both the minute details and the distinctive style of pharaonic reliefs and inscriptions from a wide range of historical periods at Medinet Habu, Luxor Temple, and other monuments in the region. Dozens of her exquisite facsimiles have been published in *Medinet Habu IX* and *Medinet Habu X*, and many more await publication in forthcoming volumes. Margaret passed away in February 2025 at the age of eighty-five. Her memory will be revered in Luxor and beyond.



HOWARD E. HALLENGREN

One of ISAC's most dedicated supporters and a life member of the ISAC Advisory Council, Howard E. Hallengren passed away in October 2024 at the age of ninety-four. He came to ISAC through his close friendship with Carlotta Maher, who recruited him into our volunteer and donor ranks in the 1970s. Combining many decades of professional experience in finance, investment, and business in the Middle East with his personal and intellectual interests, Howard supported many aspects of our research and fieldwork with his immensely valuable insights and ideas. He was a generous financial supporter of many ISAC programs and activities over the course of fifty years. His most recent major gift, to endow our first-ever professorship in the archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf States, has established a whole new frontier for our research. Howard's immense generosity and enthusiasm for ISAC will long stand as a permanent legacy to his memory.



IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT HELMAN

Robert Helman, husband of ISAC Advisory Council life member Janet Helman, was one of the Chicago legal and business community's most storied leaders. Bob practiced at Mayer Brown for almost six decades. During his years as the firm's chair, he oversaw its growth from 300 to 800 attorneys. Beyond his professional career in the legal and business worlds, Bob also generously offered his insights, energy, and leadership to a wide range of local and national organizations, exemplified in his service on the boards of the Brookings Institution, Council on Foreign Relations, and Aspen Institute. He was a generous benefactor of ISAC's work, both financially and through his support of Janet throughout all her years of invaluable service to our mission and programs. Bob passed away in October 2024 at the age of ninety.

**ROGER D. ISAACS**

Roger D. Isaacs, a member of the ISAC Advisory Council since 2013, died in February 2025 at the age of ninety-nine. A decorated veteran of World War II, he went on to a highly successful career of many decades in public relations. In addition to his professional career, Roger was for many years keenly interested in biblical scholarship and was an ardent supporter of ISAC. He loved spending time in the ISAC Research Archives, which he dubbed his "second home," and discussing his work with ISAC's faculty and staff. Roger's decades of inquiry led him to publish several volumes of his research and to create the online journal *Studies of Biblical Interest* (www.biblicaljournal.org), which will continue under the editorship of his grandson Adam Hemmings, a 2012 graduate of the College of the University of Chicago.

**ROBERT SMITHER**

Renowned physicist Robert Smither, husband of longtime ISAC associate and Chicago House staff member Carol Meyer, was a senior researcher and leader at Argonne National Laboratory for five decades. At Argonne, he led a wide range of research and development projects, including groundbreaking work on gamma rays, medical-imaging systems, astrophysics, and much more. A widely published author and researcher, he had a vast range of intellectual interests. Among his many exceptional accomplishments was building a silica-crystal mosaic gamma-ray diffraction lens used in the search for a supposedly lost Leonardo da Vinci fresco.

**KRISZTIÁN VÉRTES**

Krisztián Vértés, a native of Pécs, Hungary, was trained as an Egyptologist at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. Already a talented and experienced field artist when he joined ISAC's Epigraphic Survey in 2005, he brought to the Chicago House method not only a keen eye and a skilled hand but also a deep processual knowledge of Egyptian wall relief and painting that enhanced the collective skill set of the Survey's documentation team. Starting in 2012, Krisztián revolutionized the way the Epigraphic Survey creates its facsimiles, introducing computerized tablets and drawing software in a dynamic approach that no one else could have conceptualized. Always keen for the next adventure, Krisztián became a legend in his own time. He passed away in May 2025 at the age of forty-nine.

