

IN MEMORIAM

Albert (“Bud”) Haas

This year the Oriental Institute lost a dear friend in the death of Albert (“Bud”) Haas. It is hard to convey the full extent of Bud’s enthusiasm for every aspect of the Institute and the community of people involved in its work. That affection was reciprocated. I am not exaggerating when I say that Bud was truly beloved by the faculty, staff, volunteers, docents, and members of the Oriental Institute.

Bud and his wife Cissy began as Oriental Institute volunteers in the very first training class for docents, back in 1966. From everything I have heard, Bud was considered one of the best docents the program ever had by virtue of his deep knowledge of the museum and his infectious enthusiasm for the ancient civilization of the Near East. He and Cissy were generous supporters of Oriental Institute projects. Together, they were great friends to the late Helene Kantor and her important work at the site of Chogha Mish in Iran. Bud and Cissy traveled to Egypt, and naturally, became close friends with Harry James, Keeper of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum. Bud participated as a volunteer in Larry Stager’s excavations at Ashkelon, in Israel, where he helped excavate a dog cemetery, of all things.

Bud was made a lifetime member of the Oriental Institute’s Visiting Committee, and he participated fully there — offering creative ideas and frank opinions that almost always resulted in positive changes within the Institute.

In recognition of all that Bud has done for the Oriental Institute, he was awarded the James Henry Breasted Medallion just over a year ago. The Medallion is the highest honor that the Oriental Institute can bestow on an individual in recognition of exemplary service. In addition, his name will be permanently linked to the Institute through the Bud and Cissy Haas Megiddo Gallery, named in their honor by one of their closest friends, Lois Schwartz. Reinstallation began on this gallery just a few weeks ago, and I deeply regret that Bud did not live to see its completion.

Bud leaves behind a legacy of friendship and love among the many people whose lives he enriched by helping them, working with them, and always being there for them. We are all the better for having known Bud. Speaking for my colleagues and myself, we extend our condolences and heartfelt sympathy to Cissy and the entire Haas family. We will miss Bud very much.

Gil J. Stein



Bud Haas

IN MEMORIAM

Frank Yurco*Frank Yurco*

Frank Yurco, a fine Egyptologist and superb educator, died in early 2004. Frank loved everything having to do with ancient Egypt, and he was extraordinarily gifted at sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm with people on all levels, from fellow professional Egyptologists to schoolchildren. He began while still a student at the University of Chicago, giving lectures in association with the 1977/1978 Tutankhamun exhibit jointly sponsored by the Oriental Institute and The Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. From then on he taught adult education courses for both the Oriental Institute and Field Museum and soon began teaching for Oakton Community College and the University of Chicago Continuing Education Program and Elderhostel Program. He taught everything about ancient Egypt, from prehistory to hieroglyphs to religion to the role of women. Frank was also concerned with the presentation of Egyptian

history for schoolchildren, and for about a decade he served as Curriculum Evaluator for the Chicago Public Schools and for the schools in Washington, D.C., working with elementary and high school teachers to develop accurate, appropriate, and stimulating curricula showing the respect for people of all races and backgrounds with which he lived his whole life. In this capacity he also served as Lecturer for the Chicago Academic Alliance Teacher Enrichment Program “Extending the Great Conversation” funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Frank also served as Egyptology consultant and/or exhibit developer for several major collections and exhibits at important museums. He was also a gifted tour leader, worked for three years as an epigrapher for the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor, as assistant editor for *Encyclopedia Britannica* for many years, and most recently as reference librarian at the University of Chicago’s Regenstein Library.

Frank Yurco was an extremely generous, good-hearted, and outgoing individual. It was this nature, combined with his extraordinary knowledge about ancient Egypt and his ability to make the complexities of this great civilization accessible to many audiences, that made him such an extraordinary teacher. Frank’s knowledge, enthusiasm, and generosity will be much missed.

Janet H. Johnson
