

Marjorie Webster

Most of you are aware that our dear friend Marjorie (“Madge”) Webster passed away this past May at her home Santa Barbara, California. Madge grew up in Winnetka, Illinois, and early on developed a deep intellectual interest in archaeology and the ancient world. Madge participated in archaeological excavations in the American Southwest, and shortly after World War II worked as a volunteer on a dig led by Robert Braidwood at Starved Rock, Illinois. This began her close friendship with the Braidwood family and her involvement with the work of the Oriental Institute. Madge was an engaged and loyal member of the Oriental



Institute Visiting Committee starting in 1961, and had just marked her fiftieth year of service shortly before her death. Madge was a strong supporter of Bob and Linda Braidwood’s Prehistoric Project — first at Jarmo (Iraq) and later in southeast Turkey at Çayonu. After the Braidwoods’ death in 2003, Madge was instrumental in establishing the Robert and Linda Braidwood Visiting Scholar program. Madge’s lifelong involvement with archaeology was matched by her fascination with antique astronomical instruments and her involvement with the Adler Planetarium, where she and her late husband Roderick were co-curators of the Adler’s world-renowned collection of antique astrolabes. We will miss Madge greatly.
