

Outreach

INAUGURATED WHEN DISTANCE was much more of an obstacle than it is today, the direct contact which the Oriental Institute has maintained over the years with even the most remote corners of the Near East is symbolic of one of the fundamental facets of its life—its continuous and close relationship with individuals, institutions, and agencies in many phases of the social spectrum throughout the world. The reputation for integrity and responsible action which the Institute won for itself in its outreach during the days of Professor Breasted it has happily been able to maintain through the succeeding years.

In the Near East our staff members and representatives have been and still are hospitably received everywhere. Indeed, in the past year the Institute was invited by the Development Board of the Iraq Government to undertake a study of ancient irrigation systems in the Diyala basin at its expense and in its behalf, to help determine procedures for restoring the ancient productivity of the country by new irrigation systems. This is a new venture, a venture in “applied archeology,” in which we are happy to participate. In Jordan, where we are not currently excavating, we are nonetheless involved in the affairs of the Palestine Archaeological Museum, created by Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and in the study of the Dead Sea Scroll materials through an international group of scholars. In Egypt the Ministry of Education and the Foreign Office have agreed to admit to the country for the 1957–58 season those members of our expedition who are British subjects.

In England we have for many years been working closely with the Egypt Exploration Society. Contacts are maintained in France with the national Commission des Fouilles and with the Union Internationale Académique, which has sponsored our Assyrian Dictionary abroad; in Germany, with the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut; and in Italy, with the Instituto Pontificio Biblico. In the summer of 1957 a goodly delegation of our scholars will attend the International Congress of Orientalists at Munich, thanks to the help of the membership.

At home the Institute continues to work closely with other institutions. We have had many joint expeditions during the years, with the University Museum of Philadelphia, with the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, with the American Schools of Oriental Research, and with other institutions. Individual scholars of our staff join in projects conducted in other universities, while staff members from other universities come here to work with us for long and short periods of time. Through our staff members we are represented on all the national learned societies in our field and with the councils that bring the action of national societies to high-level focus.

In Chicago our staff members participate, as occasion permits, in the life of the Art Institute, the Museum of Natural History, and such institutions as the Newberry Library. In what is said about the Institute Museum below some idea is given of our efforts to reach out to the grade and high schools of Greater Chicago.

