

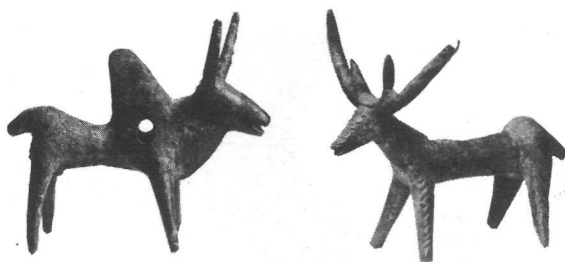
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM

The emergence of the Nubian project in the spring of 1960 as an urgent and major undertaking of the Oriental Institute is reflected in the tasks of the Museum and its staff during the year 1960/61.

A special exhibit of enlarged photographs showing views of important sites threatened by the waters of the artificial lake that will result from the building of the high Assuan Dam has been arranged in the west end of the lobby.

A scale model of the portion of the Nile Valley at Abu Simbel showing the temples of Ramses II has been designed and built by the Museum staff. Normally, the water in this working model corresponds to the present water level of the Nile; by pressing a button, the water begins to rise until it reaches the top of the cliffs and completely engulfs the temples. This working model has proved to be a great attraction to Museum visitors, ranging from visiting royalty to fifth-graders. A popular columnist in one of the leading Chicago dailies wrote about it: "Perhaps the best pushbutton in the city . . . is a button in the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. This button is just outside a tank containing a panorama Nile River scene. *You push, water comes into the tank and the Nile River floods behind a big dam. The Nubian monuments, symbols of some of man's best efforts, are swamped.* Purpose of the display: To gain sympathy for the Institute's efforts to save the Nubian monuments. I'm for it."

To support the Nubian project and to gain the public's interest for it, several members of the Oriental Institute staff, including the Director and the Curator of the Museum, appeared in a number of radio and television programs and in public lectures on the subject.



Bronze animals from Mazenderan (northern Iran)



Bronze animal from Mazenderan

The *WFMT Chicago Fine Arts Guide* for September, 1960, contained a short article by the Curator entitled "Art in the Oriental Institute Museum" and over thirty illustrations of the Museum objects, as well as a few views of Philae and Abu Simbel in Nubia. Copies of this guide, though out of date for its original purpose by the end of September, proved to be popular with Museum visitors and was still in demand some months later.

Important new additions to the Museum's holdings were made this year through the Institute's various field expeditions. From the last prehistoric survey undertaken by Professor Braidwood in Iranian Kurdistan there came a series of early artifacts including some human and animal figurines made of clay. Some were shown in a special exhibit on the occasion of a lecture by Professors Braidwood and Howe on their expedition.

In addition to the objects secured through the expeditions, the Institute, through the generosity of some of its members and friends, was able in the past year to acquire an important collection of metal and terra cotta objects from the relatively inaccessible regions of Talish and Mazenderan in Iran. These new acquisitions fill a serious gap in the Institute's collections, for the antiquities of these regions, especially the metallurgy of the first millennium B.C., are of great interest in themselves and are important for the establishing of the cultural connection of these regions with others to the north and the east.



Pottery bowl vase from Mazenderan