

## THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM

During 1962/63, 44,473 people visited the museum, as compared to 42,178 during 1961/62, while in 1963/64 43,141 visitors took advantage of our facilities. The number of school groups rose to 593, many of them guided by our docent, Miss Leila Ibrahim, by members of the faculty, or by graduate students. A considerable number of distinguished visitors from other countries, among whom were representatives of museums, singled out our museum from among the places of interest to be seen in Chicago.

Our holdings increased considerably. A few interesting objects were purchased; others were presented by generous friends. However, as all through the Oriental Institute's history, most of our new acquisitions came from our own excavations.

The museum facilities were more than a little strained by the multiplicity of objects brought home by the Nubian Expedition at the end of its 1962/63 season. These came in forty-six wooden boxes, and a whole wing of the basement was devoted to unpacking and hasty classification prior to the opening of a temporary exhibit on October 5, when Professor Keith C. Seele delivered his lecture on the results of the season's work in Nubia. The Palestinian Hall has been temporarily cleared of its permanent exhibits, and Nubian objects are being displayed in forty-six museum cases. They include pottery; objects of alabaster; Egyptian scarabs of the New Kingdom; several outstanding copper vessels and a New Kingdom copper mirror, which is probably one of the finest of its kind ever discovered in the Nile Valley; and a rich collection of jewelry, textiles, and leather work. One of the large display cases is devoted to but a portion of the contents of a single grave of the early New Kingdom. The rich contents of this provincial Egyptian grave, including inscriptions on one

of its coffins, evoked world-wide notice as one of the outstanding discoveries in the entire campaign to save the monuments of Nubia. Now, the Oriental Institute's share of the finds of the 1963/64 season is on the way in some fifty boxes. Again, our resources and ingenuity will be put to a test. The new material, too, will be a valuable addition to our collections. It will be put on display as soon as possible.

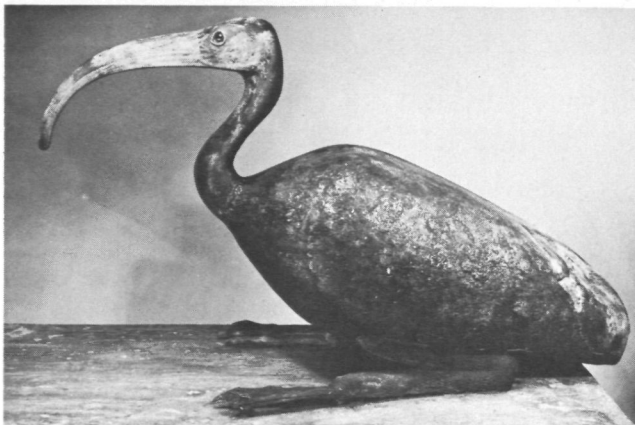
From the excavations at Chogha Mish in Khuzestan the Oriental Institute obtained as its share a large and varied collection of painted and unpainted pottery, primitive agricultural tools, finely carved and modeled animal figurines, and a very interesting collection of cylinder seal impressions on clay.

In keeping with our long-established practice of acquainting the Oriental Institute members and the public with our most recent acquisitions, a selection of the finds from Choga Mish was put on temporary display in connection with the writer's lecture, January 15, 1964, on the results of the 1963 season at that site.

One way in which the Oriental Institute makes its materials known to the public outside Chicago is by loans to other museums for temporary exhibits usually devoted to a specific subject. During the period covered by this report, loan exhibits were sent to such "neighboring" communities as Madison, Wisconsin, Dallas, Texas, and New York City. Unfortunately, the demand for such exhibits exceeds our facilities to accommodate all of them.

The Oriental Institute Museum, in turn, has occasionally borrowed objects from other museums for specialized short-term exhibits. It is hoped that we will be able to continue such activities, on a larger scale, in the future.

P. P. DELOUGAZ  
*Curator*



*An ibis representing the god Thoth from Hermopolis, Egypt. Gift of Chester D. Tripp of Evanston, Illinois.*



*Zöomorphic red pottery jar from Mazanderan region, northern Iran*



*Pottery vessel from Mazanderan region of northern Iran, about 1000-700 B.C.*



*Docent Leila Ibrahim guiding a group from St. Mary's Seminary, Techny, Illinois, through museum.*