

Membership Office

BERNARD A. LALOR, *Membership Secretary*

In the course of the year, the Membership Office offered a diverse program to the members of the Oriental Institute.

The Newsletters sent out this year were more numerous. The field directors kept us amply informed of the work of the Oriental Institute's expeditions in the Near East. As members may recall, among these newsletters were several reports on the current work of Robert Braidwood's prehistoric investigations at Çayönü (Turkey) and Helene Kantor's excavations at Chogha Mish (Iran). Edward Wente kept us abreast of the ongoing work of the Epigraphic Survey at Luxor (Egypt), and Andrew Moore, of Oxford University, reported on the results of the new joint expedition at Tell Abu Hureyra (Syria). Lastly, we received excellent coverage of the resumption of work at the "City of Temples," Nippur (Iraq) and McGuire Gibson's quest for tablets. Mrs. Carolyn Livingood organized two special dinners at the Quadrangle club for members to hear Mr. Gibson's projection of the work before and preliminary report after the field work at Nippur.

The lecture series for members appealed to a variety of interests. In the fall, T. Cuyler Young, Jr., spoke on excavations concerning Ancient Media. This opening lecture was followed by the annual recep-

tion for the members of the Oriental Institute held in the museum. In the next lecture, Stuart Struever brought us close to home with the presentation of his work on the early Indian settlements in Illinois, while the two following lectures took us to the perimeters of Egypt. Our former director George Hughes discussed liturgical books found by Oriental Institute expeditions in Nubia, and Ahmed Fakhry told of the recent discoveries in the Western Oases of Egypt. Cecil Striker surveyed the Byzantine and Crusader mosaics and frescos of Kalenderhane Mosque in Istanbul, many of which were unique and unusually important in art history. The series was completed by another former director, Thorkild Jacobsen, who discussed the literary laments for the destruction of the ancient Mesopotamian city Ur.

This winter our seasonal mailing to the membership departed from the traditional form of a greeting card. We sent for the enjoyment of our friends a print of one of the treasures of the Oriental Institute Museum, a winged lion roundel of the Achaemenid gold treasure.

In the spring we began an informal campaign for new members. The Director asked the membership for names of persons who might be interested in joining the Oriental Institute, and we thank all those who responded so warmly and enthusiastically. Many of those who were suggested accepted our invitation to become members. This increase in our circle of friends was complemented by the new corps of trained volunteer guides, who were recruited through the untiring efforts of Mrs. Carolyn Livingood, with the able assistance of Mrs. David W. Maher.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the interest and support of our members throughout the year.