

## THE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

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Last year marked an anniversary for the membership program and in the last report I surveyed the development of this program during the preceding quarter century. Missing from that review was a restatement of the values and goals formulated by Dr. Carl H. Kraeling and his successors for the membership program. While the American nation reviews the achievements of two centuries, I would like to recall here not the achievements but rather the hope and intent behind this program. We at the Institute are still trying to carry out the mutually beneficial association first outlined in the Annual Report of 1957/58.

"The Member Program corresponds to a twofold desire. The first is the desire of the University of Chicago and of the Institute to serve the community of which it is a part and so to perform to the fullest extent its proper function as an element of a democratic society. The second is the desire of the interested members of the community to be kept abreast of important contributions to knowledge in the field of the arts and sciences and to participate in the enterprise by which they are made."

Robert McCormick Adams expanded on this theme in the report for 1964/65. "A vital consideration in the Oriental Institute's program has always been its cultural outreach to the Chicago community. While changing in specific objectives and methods over the years, there has always been recognition that an indispensable part of the task of recovering the original evidence on the backgrounds and history of

the great oriental civilizations was the effort to interpret and present it as a whole to the widest possible audience. Our membership program, including its newsletters, public lectures, and other features, has been one means of attaining this end."

With such words Robert McC. Adams together with Press Hodgkins and Mrs. Theodore D. Ticken launched a drive to expand community contacts ten years ago. We are continuing to enlarge our contacts, and one means is new memberships. The total number of memberships is now over 1550 and represents a steady growth both in the Chicago metropolitan area and beyond. Indeed 60 memberships are outside the United States. One new membership was taken out by the newly organized Middle Eastern Culture Center in Tokyo. This center represents a rapidly increasing interest in the Near East among the Japanese and the association between the two organizations should be mutually rewarding.

Two forthcoming activities of the Institute are particularly oriented toward the community. This fall, the Institute will reopen the Babylonian Gallery of the Museum with a new form of exhibition. Next year, the Oriental Institute will co-sponsor with the Field Museum the Tutankhamun Exhibit in Chicago. The membership program will endeavor to function in both these activities.

The lecture series this year was opened by the timely and most interesting lecture on the Sumerian woman by Samuel Noah Kramer. Returning to the Institute after more than 30 years, Professor Kramer also shared with the audience reminiscences of the Institute in those years. The noted scholar Arnaldo Momigliano continued the series with a lecture on the role of the Jews and Greeks in the Hellenistic world. Gene B. Gragg of our own faculty gave a stimulating talk which bridged the past and present in Ethiopia and which was complemented by a beautiful exhibit of Ethiopian craftsmanship. Early in 1976, C. C. Lamberg-Karlovsky reviewed the archeological researches of the site of Tepe Yahya in Iran; and Edward Keall presented a historical survey of the Parthians. The series closed with one of the most fascinating topics of all, the Egyptian mummies; James E. Harris explained how the biological sciences can extract information from the mummies which cannot be found recorded on the ancient monuments or tombs.

We again featured Members' Day as part of our activities. The faculty, staff, and students worked hard to provide displays and presentations that would acquaint members, both old and new, with the many projects, facilities, and functions carried on at the Institute and

in the field. While spring flowers welcomed members inside, outside the climate was harsh and unseasonable—rain, sleet, and snow. All of us felt disappointment over the day's prospects. Close to 200 members, however, arrived to participate in a mutually gratifying event.

One feature of Members' Day was the slide presentation of the 1976 tour to Egypt. David W. Maher shared with us pleasant recollections of a very successful journey along the Nile ably led by David P. Silverman. We hope to repeat such tours in 1977 together with the Field Museum.

*News & Notes* is now three years old and I regretfully report that Peter T. Daniels, who has ably and creatively steered the newsletter from the first issue, is leaving us to work on the staff of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary. We are all grateful for his adept services.

These activities represent our efforts to enrich this mutual association between the Institute and its members. We hope that we have provided a measure of community service. We also gratefully acknowledge the very generous participation of our membership who not only support the Institute through payment of dues, but also through extraordinary contributions to special projects. Once again, any benefits of this program are due to the many efforts of the staff and members of the Oriental Institute.