
The Volunteer Program

Jill A. Maher

The second decade of the Volunteer Program has opened with an extraordinarily busy year. Started in 1966 by Mrs. John Livingood, the Volunteer Program finds, trains, and schedules volunteers who work half a day per week as Museum docents or Shop docents. Museum docents give tours of the Museum to school and other groups and welcome visitors to the Institute. Shop docents work in the museum shop which offers the visitor an outstanding selection of Near Eastern jewelry, museum reproductions, and books. Income from the shop has grown under the capable management of Mrs. Ruth Marcanti and is a welcome addition to the funds of the Institute. Oriental Institute volunteers are usually the only staff the visitor meets, and volunteers serve as an important link between the scholarly work of the Institute and the public. During the time the Tutankhamun exhibit was in Chicago, the

number of visitors to the Museum increased enormously, at times up to 300 people an hour. The volunteers added an information table to the lobby where they dispensed aid and comfort to visitors, advising them on bus routes and eating places as well as archeology. While the Treasures of Tutankhamun were on display at the Field Museum, fifteen of our docents gave time there in addition to their regular duties at the Institute.

Training to be a docent is rigorous. In addition to extensive reading the volunteers must attend a course of lectures and gallery talks and prepare a written outline of the Museum collection. This year the faculty and staff members, docents, and graduate students who kindly gave their time to the training program were: Linn Buss, Peter Dorman, Judith Franke, McGuire Gibson, David Nasgowitz, Peter Piccione, Emily Teeter, Mary Ann Wayne, and Don Whitcomb.

There has been a special program or lecture for docents each month of the year. Doris Shayne, Docent, spoke on the spread of art motifs throughout the Ancient Near East; Frank Yurco gave an illustrated lecture on the work of the Epigraphic Survey; Acting Curator Judith Franke introduced the docents to the new Mesopotamian Gallery in several sessions; David Nasgowitz, Assistant Curator, gave the docents a five-hour refresher course in the old galleries; Richard Zettler, Assistant Director of the Nippur Expedition, discussed the work of the last season, and I followed with slides showing less technical aspects of the dig; Paul Zimansky gave an illustrated talk on the little known kingdom of Urartu; three slide talks on the tomb of Tutankhamun were presented by Eugene Cruz-Uribe, Peter Piccione, and Ann Roth; and finally, Emily Teeter toured the Museum's new exhibit, *The Magic of Egyptian Art*, with the docents. A class in Akkadian, the language of the Assyrians and Babylonians, has been meeting once a week since January with Robert Whiting. To these generous friends and teachers the volunteers express their thanks.

For our spring party the volunteers gathered outside the Field Museum early one May morning for a private viewing of the Treasures of Tutankhamun, followed by a breakfast party.

The funds for volunteer parking, Xeroxing, and routine expenses were obtained through the luncheon program: groups of twenty or more people can arrange lunch at the Quadrangle Club through the Volunteer Office. This year many hundreds of visitors took advantage of this service.

Margaret Grant, Assistant Chairman of the Volunteer Program, wrote and distributed a lively monthly newsletter which was snapped up by Institute staff members as well as docents. I wish

to thank her for her outstanding contribution to the program in all her many roles. Others gave special help in the Volunteer Office—Linn Buss, Edith Engel, and Mary Ann Wayne—and I am grateful.

Our volunteer corps is now a diverse group including students, housewives, retired engineers, and business executives. The volunteers have become an integral part of the Oriental Institute, and we warmly invite other members to join us.

Volunteers of the Oriental Institute 1976/77

Mrs. Mychal Angelos, Cary	Mr. Albert Haas, Chicago
Mrs. Margaret Arvey, Chicago	Mrs. Albert Haas, Chicago
Mrs. Herbert Barghusen, Chicago	Mrs. Donald Hamrin, Chicago
Mrs. Helmut Baum, Chicago	Mrs. Teresa Hintzke, Evanston
Mrs. Cameron Brown, Lake Forest	Mrs. Harry Hoffner, Oak Park
Mrs. Ralph Burhoe, Chicago	Mrs. Janet Hurwich, Lincolnwood
Mrs. Onno Buss, La Grange Park	Mrs. A. Imberman, Hinsdale
Mr. Leonard Byman, Chicago	Mrs. Edwin Irons, Chicago
Mrs. G.A. Christopher, Crete	Mrs. Henry Irwin, Chicago
Mrs. Yvonne Cooper, Chicago	Mrs. Jo Jackson, Chicago
Mr. Tom Corbett, Chicago	Mrs. Victor Jackson, Chicago
Mr. James Czarnik, Chicago	Mrs. Janet Jentes, Chicago
Mrs. J. R. DePencier, Chicago	Miss Lenore John, Chicago
Mrs. Mary d'Ouille, Evergreen Park	Mrs. Alan Katz, Evanston
Ms. Lynette Dray, Chicago	Mrs. Spencer Kimball, Chicago
Mr. Milton Droege, La Grange	Mrs. Suzanne Krill, Chicago
Mrs. Susan Duda, Chicago	Mrs. Jill Maher, Chicago
Miss Evelyn Dyba, Chicago	Mrs. Elda Maynard, Chicago
Mrs. David Easton, Chicago	Mrs. Bette Miller, Ingleside
Mrs. Phillip Elmes, Chicago	Ms. Doralee Miller, Glen Ellyn
Mrs. Thomas Enck, Chicago	Mrs. J. Mulberry, Chicago
Mrs. Edith Engel, Flossmoor	Mrs. Miodrag Nedic, Chicago
Mrs. Hy Fish, Chicago	Mrs. Otto Nerad, River Forest
Ms. Shirley Jean Fisher, Chicago	Mrs. A. Olsen, Chicago
Mrs. James Ford, Chicago	Mrs. Ronald Orner, Highland Park
Mrs. Barbara Frey, Chicago	Mrs. Gloria Orwin, Chicago
Mrs. Terry Friedman, Chicago	Mrs. Jo Ann Putz, Oak Lawn
Mrs. Harold Futransky, Skokie	Mrs. Chester Riehle, Monee
Mrs. Isak Gerson, Chicago	Mrs. Alan Reinstein, Highland Park
Mrs. Kay Ginther, Chicago	Mrs. Ronald Rogers, Park Forest
Mrs. Natalie Goldberg, Chicago	Mrs. Homer Rosenberg, Highland Park
Mrs. Susan Goldhamer, Chicago	Ms. Janet Russell, Chicago
Mrs. Robert Grant, Chicago	Mrs. Marion Salmon, Clarendon Hills
Mrs. Stacey Greenberger, Evanston	Mrs. Barbara Sansone, Western Springs
Mrs. Ernest Grunsfeld, Highland Park	Mrs. Robert Schloerb, Chicago

Mrs. Mary Schulman, Chicago	Mrs. Gustavus Swift, Chicago
Mrs. Doris Shayne, Chicago	Ms. Jeannette Thompson, Chicago
Mrs. Karen Shymkus, Crete	Mrs. Kenneth Watson, Chicago
Mrs. Gertrude Silberman, Chicago	Mrs. Mary Anne Wayne, Chicago
Mrs. K. S. Singwi, Winnetka	Mrs. Merna Wechsler, Highland Park
Mrs. Daniel Smith, Chicago	Mrs. Winsor White, Chicago
Mr. Keith Smith, Chicago	Mrs. Charles Winans, Chicago
Mrs. Peter Spiegel, Chicago	Mrs. Rosalinde Vorne, Chicago
Mrs. Margaret Strandjord, Chicago	Mrs. Walter Zurne, Chicago
Mrs. Clement Studebaker, Chicago	
Mrs. Opel Sucharetza, Chicago	