



Membership Program

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The Membership program at the Oriental Institute has several functions. It provides members with information about the growth of human civilization in the ancient Near East through our newsletter, educational programs, lecture series, and tour programs. In addition, members are kept informed of the latest discoveries on our excavations in the field and the activities of our research, publication, and

museum programs here at the Institute. The Membership Office also receives contributions from members and friends and funnels them on to assist in the support of the Institute and the wide diversity of programs it sponsors.

The Membership Office went through many changes this year. Eugene Cruz-Urbe went back to his graduate studies full time. Susan Smith took over the post of Membership Secretary in the summer only to

find her husband had obtained a faculty position in Texas. In December I became the new Membership Secretary. Throughout this period we had the stabilizing influence of Malinda Winans, as well as the invaluable input of Albert Haas. I am grateful, also, to my new volunteer, Helen Glennon. At the beginning of 1982 we were finally, and unfortunately, forced by a doubling of our postage costs into increasing the annual membership gift from \$15 to \$20. Not unexpectedly, there seems to have been no increase in the speed of delivery concomitant with the postal increase.

Two views of the May dinner to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the museum.





The *News and Notes* continued, due to the fine editorship of Elda Maynard, to make a monthly appearance. A new feature is a monthly Suq offering.

The Saturday morning education program for members was active and varied this year. In the fall we had a course on Cyprus and one on Nubia and the Sudan. In winter quarter people studied Biblical Hebrew, Mesopotamian Narrative Poetry, and Introductory Hieroglyphs. The spring quarter saw our classroom facilities overloaded with continuations of Biblical Hebrew, Egyptian Hieroglyphs, and Nubia and the Sudan. In addition we

offered a combination Members' course, Docent training course and teacher training course on the History and Culture of the Ancient Near East which had an overwhelming response. The Summer of 1982 brought courses on the Life of Common People in Egypt, The Sea Peoples, and Introductory Hieroglyphs. An innovation in courses this year was a hieroglyphs-by-mail course which proved so popular we had to run several sections. I am working now on ways to offer more courses by mail.

The theme of this year's lecture series was the Technology of the Near East.

The opening lecture in October, "Managing Uncertainties in the Control of Water—the Case of Mesopotamia" was presented in Mandel Hall by the Institute's new director, Robert McCormick Adams. This talk was preceded by a dinner at the Quadrangle Club and followed by a festive reception in the Museum. The nine other lectures in the Members' series touched on ancient glassmaking, the coming of iron, pyrotechnology, pottery and porcelain, the development of mining and metallurgy, and preserving evidence of ancient technology; as well as archaeological talks on Marlik, Afghanistan, and Nippur. A simple reception followed each of these lectures in the Museum's Egyptian hall to allow students, faculty, and members a chance to chat with the speakers.

Eighteen people went on a three week tour to Egypt in February, led by John Larson. A nice mix of the young

and not quite so young, it even included three generations of one family—and a good time was had by all.

We were given the opportunity this year to have a booth at ART 1982 CHICAGO, a major international art fair held on Navy Pier in May. A joint effort with the Museum and the Volunteer Program, it was enjoyed by all and offered us the opportunity to present information about the Institute and its programs to the approximately 50,000 people attending.

The spring was culminated by the annual dinner, this year celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Museum in this building. A record number of people enjoyed cocktails in the garden, dinner with the Egyptians and Assyrians, and a delightful program dealing with the history of the Museum and featuring segments of James Breasted's 1932 film "The Human Adventure."