

The Suq

Denise Browning

This has been a very successful and eventful year for the Suq. Our total receipts this year were \$139,100.66 with our busiest month being December. Our net sales for the month of December were \$21,567.62, almost \$6,000 more than last year.

May, however, was our most eventful month. At that time we undertook a small renovation which incorporated the closet area into the Suq, increasing our square footage by almost 36 square feet, giving us a total of 346 square feet. The same month we were joint hosts for the annual meeting of the Museum Store Association which was held for the first time in Chicago. There were 381 delegates, from almost

every state, including Hawaii, involved in a week full of meetings and seminars on such topics as sales analysis, museum codes of ethics, and merchandising. All of the delegates were invited to the opening of our Moroccan Suq, which opened the day after our membership dinner. John and Peggy Carswell had shopped the markets of Morocco to bring back all sorts of handmade items from brass mirrors to Moroccan rugs. We created our own Moroccan Suq in the lobby of the Museum. It was a great success! Everyone was in the spirit, and when a price tag occasionally was misplaced, bargaining could be heard at the cash register. But you had to be quick for almost everything was sold within a



Ready for the opening of the Moroccan Suq.

few hours. It must have been a record for the number of sales in the shortest amount of time. Throughout all this, I had the invaluable help of my employees Jack Kish, Florence Ovadia, Barbara Storms, and Rita Joyce. Everyone had so much fun that we are trying to convince Mr. Carswell to buy out the suqs of Turkey when he is there this fall so that we can have our own Turkish Suq.

There were several new

items developed for the Suq this year. One was a delicious chocolate mint in the shape of the Achaemenid roundel, made especially for the Oriental Institute by Harbor Sweets of Marblehead, Massachusetts. The first mold was carved by hand from wood, then a plastic mold was made from the wooden one. The mint is made of dark-sweet chocolate, to rival the best of Europe, and oil of peppermint.

Also developed this year was a Middle Egyptian necklace, the original of which is on display in the Museum. It is a simple strand of carnelian, garnet, and amethyst. Leslie Meyer is currently working on a necklace to be made from one of our cylinder seals, of solid silver, which hopefully will be ready in time for Christmas.

The success of the Suq is due to the volunteers. It is

their informative and courteous attitude to our customers which actually makes all of those sales. They give of their time and what occasionally seems unlimited energy and patience to deal with what at times is a very unappreciative customer. There are few places left that still offer the services to the customer we do.

My hat goes off to Rochelle Rossin, Carol Goldstein, Andrea Freedman, Mardi Trosman, Florence Teegarden, Muriel Brauer, Beverly Pollock, Eleanor Swift, Evelyn Dyba, Diane Grodzins, Daila Shefner, Carol Green, Mary Schulman, Barbara Watson, Leonard Byman, Peggy Kovacs, Norma van der Meulen, Ria Ahlstrom, and Jo Jackson; with an extra special thanks to Eleanor Swift and Peggy Grant for their extra help far beyond the call of duty.