



Membership Program

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The membership program at the Oriental Institute exists to help our members keep current with the increasing knowledge about the development of human civilization in the ancient Near East. This is done through our newsletters, the annual report, the Membership lecture series and more informal visiting and communication.

The opening lecture for the 1983-84 Membership lecture series was presented in October of 1983 by Ronald J. Williams of the University of Toronto; "The Egyptian and Hellenic Cultural Confrontation" and was followed by a gala reception in the museum halls. Dennis Pardee of the Oriental Institute spoke in November on "Ugarit by the Sea: An International City of the Late Bronze Age", followed by Prudence O. Harper, Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, in December on "Silver Vessels of the Sasanian Period: Mirrors of an Age (3rd-7th Centuries A.D.)". In January of 1984 Kurt Rudolph, Karl Marx University, Leipzig, presented "A Visit to the Mandaeans in Southern Iraq" and in February John L. Foster, Roosevelt University lectured on "Words Inked in Stone: Recovering the Literature of Egypt in Chicago". In March Peter I. Kuniholm, Cornell University, told us about his "Aegean Dendrochronology Project" and in April John D. Ray, Cambridge University, spoke on "Five Characters: Dream

Interpretation in Ancient Egypt". May finished the series with two lectures: "Adventures in a World of Words: How We Write a Dictionary of the Hittite Language" by Harry A. Hoffner of the Oriental Institute and UCLA's Elizabeth F. Carter's presentation, "Surveying a Sumerian City: Explorations in Southern Iraq: El-Hiba, 1984".

Nineteen Institute members, accompanied by graduate student Ann Roth, went on a tour of Egypt in early March. Highlighted, as always, by a special reception and tour in Chicago House, the group had a wonderful trip.

The newsletter, *News & Notes* became a bimonthly in 1983-84. It is longer than it used to be as a monthly and carries notices of all events and of the Members' courses which are now being run by Joan Barghusen, the Education Coordinator, as well as articles about the various field projects and home research projects conducted by the Institute.

The Oriental Institute's Visiting Committee presented its annual dinner on May 14th this year. It commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the Epigraphic Survey at Chicago House in Luxor. A record number of people gathered for cocktails in the garden and Iranian Hall, followed by dinner in the Egyptian and Assyrian Halls. After dinner Lanny D. Bell, Director of the Epigraphic Survey, presented a



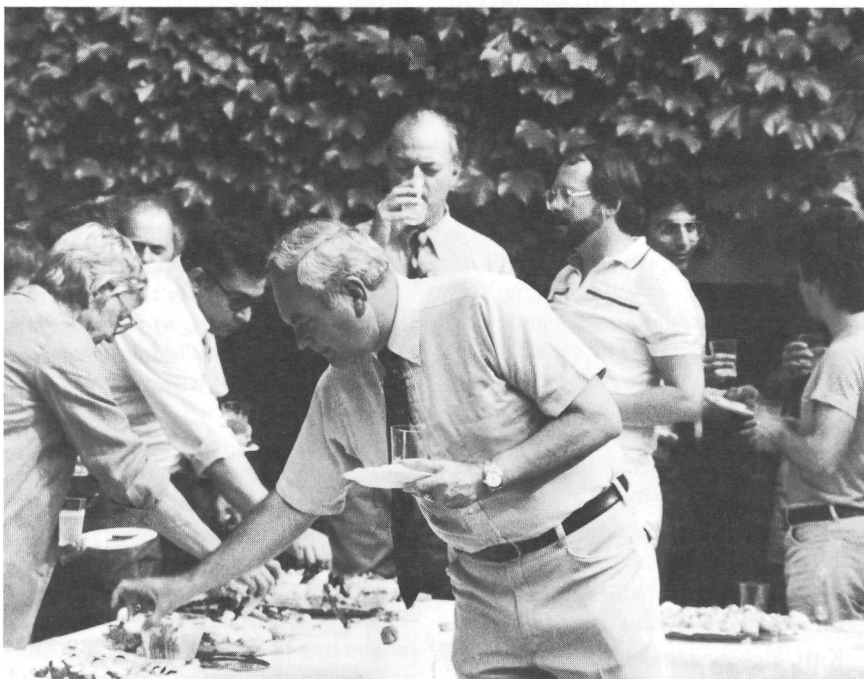
Visiting Committee member Mrs. Cameron Brown and Mrs. John A. Wilson chatting before the program at the annual dinner in May.



Annual dinner in the Museum (May, 1984).

brief talk in Breasted Hall about life in Chicago House and the evening closed with some songs and music with Egyptian and Near Eastern themes.

Finally some notes on people in the Membership Office. Malinda Winans, Membership Assistant, left in August, 1983 to take another job within the University. Our volunteer Helen Glennon sent out all the monthly renewals, a boring job about which she was ever



Summer reception in the Institute garden

cheerful. Elda Maynard continued to help with *News & Notes* and give her valuable advice and support. Finally, we are greatly indebted to two students, Steve Boozer and Yang Zhi, who have helped out in the office this past year. Steve also handled the whole Members' Day program this spring. The current Membership Assistant is Kerry Bedford.