

P E O P L E



Membership Program

Gretel Braidwood

The membership program at the Oriental Institute is designed to offer our members ways to keep abreast with the current developments in our increasing knowledge about the rise of human civilization in the ancient Near East.

In order to accomplish this we issue a bimonthly newsletter and an Annual Report. We present an evening lecture series for members, with both Oriental Institute speakers and outside lecturers, and we offer archaeological tours to the Near East. The Education Office runs a series of Saturday classes for members and presents free Sunday afternoon films on archaeology and the Near East. Every year and a half we also open the offices and basement of the Institute to members for Members' Day, with behind-the-scenes tours of the projects and workrooms of the Oriental Institute.

The major theme of this past year's lecture series was museum-archaeology, or the re-excavation, analysis, interpretation and publication of materials originally excavated often decades ago but which have lain unpublished in a museum basement ever since. The 1984-85 opening lecture in the membership series was given in October by Margaret Root of the University of Michigan on "New Perspectives on the Art of the Persian Empire" and was followed by a gala reception in the museum halls. Later in October, Richard Zettler of the Oriental Institute spoke on "Inanna at Home: The Goddess of Love and War at Nippur," followed in November by Kenneth A. Kitchen, the University of Liverpool, on "High and Low Life in Ramesside Egypt." In December Dr. Leonard Gorelick from New York presented "The Change from Stone Tools to Metal Ones in the Manufacture of Cylinder Seals in the Ancient Near East," and in February the Institute's Douglas L. Esse told us about "Just off the Farm: City Life at Khirbet Kerak in the Third Millennium B.C." Later in February Hans G. Güterbock, the Oriental Institute, lectured on "Hittites and Greeks: An Overview," followed in March by Robert M. Whiting of the Oriental Institute on "Tell Asmar Tablets: Three Hundred Years of Palace Administration." The series ended with the Institute's Bruce B. Williams' April lecture on "A New View of Pharaonic Culture in Nubia: The

Beginning, the End and the Crossroads” and the May lecture by Donald Whitcomb, the Oriental Institute, on “Persepolis Revisited: Oriental Institute Excavations at Istakhr.” Each of the lectures was followed by a reception in the Egyptian Gallery, allowing the audience and speakers a chance to chat informally.

Two tours to the Near East were run by the Oriental Institute in 1984–85. In October of 1984 twenty three members of the Institute, accompanied by archaeologists Robert and Linda Braidwood, traveled through Turkey visiting archaeological and historical sites. In February of 1985 Eryp-



Turkish tour at the site of Priene.

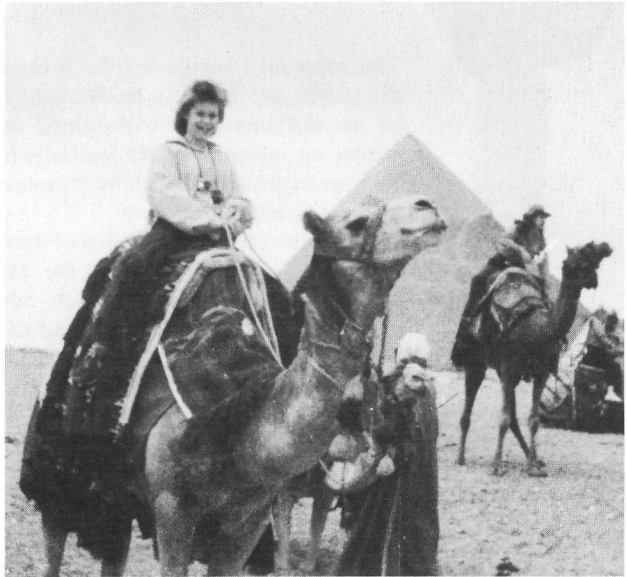
tologist Ann Roth led a group of eighteen members on the Institute’s annual tour of Egypt.

News & Notes, the bimonthly newsletter, continued to carry information about the members’ courses, offered every quarter by our Education Office, as well as articles about the current work of the Oriental Institute, both in the Near East and here in Chicago.

The Visiting Committee to the Oriental Institute presented its annual dinner this year on the 13th of May. Entitled, *Take a Scribe to Dinner*, it celebrated the long history of the Institute and its publications. Those attending enjoyed cocktails in the Iranian Hall and the courtyard garden, and dinner among the mummies and Assyrian reliefs in the Museum.



Turkish tour in the ruins at Ephesus.



Eloise Eilert using an alternative form of transportation on the tour to Egypt. (Photograph by Geraldine Eilert).

McGuire Gibson then gave a brief slide presentation in Breasted Hall with photographs of early Oriental Institute “digs” and the people involved with them.

The Membership Office couldn't function without the help of a number of people. Our volunteer Helen Glennon faithfully sends out your membership renewal notices monthly, a tedious but necessary task. Carlene Friedman, a work-study student from the Art Institute of Chicago, did the art work for the invitation, program, and note cards for the annual dinner. Elda Maynard continues to offer advice and support for *News & Notes* and other projects. Jill Maher, chairman of the Institute's Visiting Committee's Sub-committee on Development, works closely with us, especially on fund-raising for Chicago House. Finally, my part-time Membership Assistant, Kerry Bedford, turns her hands cheerfully to anything and everything which comes along.