

Membership Program

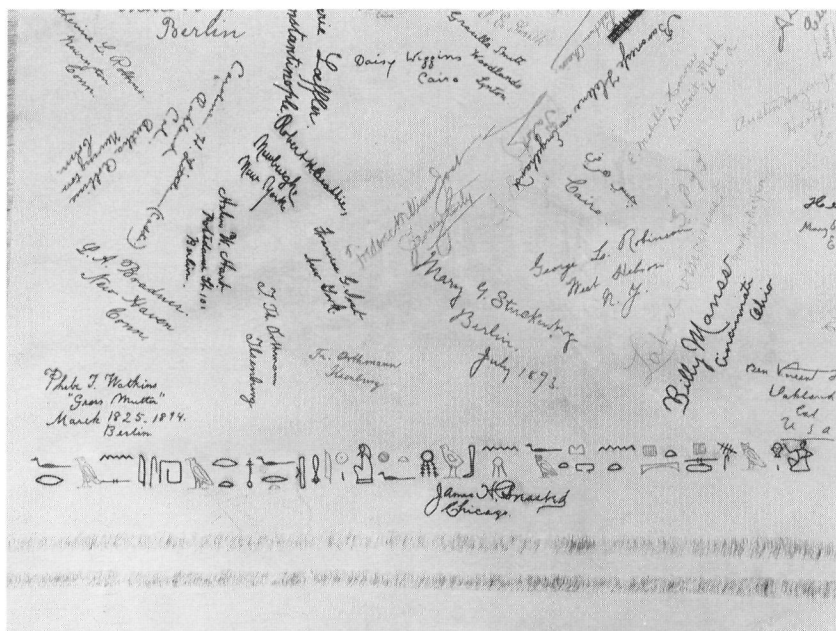
Gretel Braidwood

The Oriental Institute's membership program offers our members various ways to keep current with 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 eighteen months 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 opening lecture for the 1985-86 membership series was presented in October by Roger Moorey of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, on "Woolley's Ur: Fifty Years On" and was followed by a gala reception in the museum halls. In November Donald J. Wiseman, The University of London, spoke on "Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon," followed in December by McGuire Gibson, the Oriental Institute, on "Tablet Hill Revisited: Nippur 1985." In January Donald Hansen from New York University presented "The Architecture of the Early Dynastic Rulers of Lagash," and in early Feb-

ruary the Institute's Robert and Linda Braidwood told us about "The Continuing Surprise of Çayönü." Later in February, in conjunction with the opening of the new exhibit, "The Gods of Armageddon," Lawrence Stager, the Oriental Institute, led us "In the Footsteps of the Philistines: The First Season of Excavations at Ashkelon, 1985." In March we heard a lecture by Kenan T. Erim of New York University on "The Sculptural School of Aphrodisias," which was jointly sponsored by the Chicago Society of the A.I.A. In April we heard from Edna R. Russman, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, on "Portrait Sculpture of Egypt's Late Period (700 B.C.-30 B.C.)," Eric Meyers from Duke University told us of his "Recent Excavations in the Galilee" and Christopher B. F. Walker of the British Museum lectured on "Halley's Comet in History." The series ended in May with a presentation by Karen Wilson of New York University on "Eight Seasons of Excavation at Mendes: Capital City of the 16th Lower Egyptian Nome." There were also two summer lectures. In July the new Curator, Thomas Logan, spoke on "Excavating Museum Basements," and the Institute's Donald Whitcomb told us in August about "Explorations in Islamic Archaeology: Egypt and Jordan." Each of the lectures was followed by a reception in the Egyptian Gallery or the Insti-



Detail from a tablecloth embroidered in the early 1890s for Mrs. James Henry Breasted. The signatures are those of people from their time in Berlin, from travels to Egypt and from various members of her family. The tablecloth was part of the display at the time of the Breasted retrospective in December.

tute's garden, allowing the speakers and audience a chance to chat informally.

In early December a number of people who had worked for with the Institute's founder, James Henry Breasted, met at the Institute to exchange reminiscences about the Breasted days. They were joined by a daughter-in-law of Breasted and several of his grandchildren. On December 2nd, the fiftieth anniversary of Breasted's death, several of the participants presented a public program using a few of these reminiscences.

Our bimonthly newsletter, *News & Notes*, carries information about the current work of the Oriental Institute, both in the field and here at home, as well as listings of the

various upcoming programs, events and lectures, and also has announcements about the members' courses offered every quarter by our Education Office.

The Visiting Committee to the Oriental Institute presented its annual dinner this year on the 12th of May. It honored the twenty-fifth anniversary of the volunteer program and the sixth anniversary of the museum education program. Those attending enjoyed cocktails in the Iranian Hall and the courtyard garden and dinner among the mummies and Assyrian reliefs in the Museum.

This same weekend in May we participated, together with the Renaissance Society and the Smart



Lanny Bell helped auction off various items at the Chicago House benefit.

Gallery, in ArtExpo Chicago on Navy Pier. Once again the Museum's James Richerson ably designed and executed our joint booth and this year he also designed a handsome card to be handed out to the tens of thousands of visitors. This card, "Art at the University of Chicago," has brief descriptions of each museum or gallery and a map showing visitors how to get to them.

My invaluable Membership Assistant, Kerry Bedford, and I would have a hard time running the membership program without the help of a number of people. Long-time volunteer Helen Glennon continues the tedious but necessary job of

preparing and mailing out your membership renewal notices monthly. Advice and support for *News & Notes* and other projects comes to us from Elda Maynard, and Jill Carlotta Maher, chairman of the Institute's Visiting Committee's Sub-committee on Development, works closely with us on fund raising. Carlotta was also chairman of our first ever fall benefit on October 8th (1985). This party, given for Chicago House, was so successful and such fun that it is being repeated, this time to benefit the Museum, in October of 1986 with Kitty Picken, Rita Picken and Mary Shea as co-chairmen.