

Museum Education Program

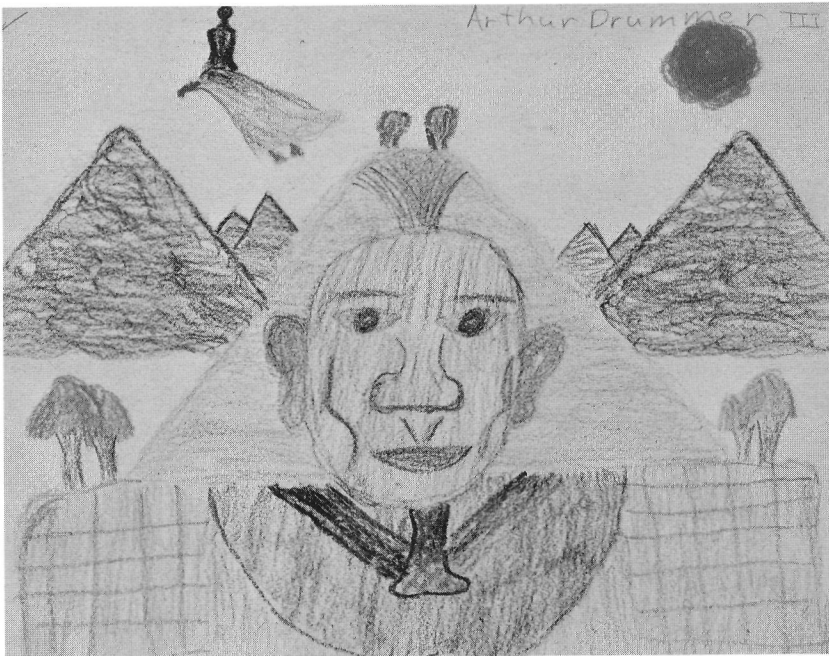
Joan D. Barghusen

In the Fall of 1985 the Museum Education Office was awarded a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council to support, for the second time, a Summer Institute for Secondary School Teachers. The intensive Institute was designed to give teachers background for teaching subjects related to the ancient Near East and to encourage them to use the resources of the Oriental Institute Museum as part of their curriculum. On May 17, twenty-six teachers, mostly high school teachers of history, humanities and art, along with several junior high school teachers of social studies, attended the full-day introductory session for this Institute entitled, like the one in 1984, "Before the Greeks: The Origins of Civilization in the An-

cient Near East." John A. Brinkman opened the Institute with a talk on the legacies of ancient Near Eastern culture to our own western civilization, and Richard Zettler presented a slide talk on archaeology. Teachers also toured the galleries and the archives, both of which are used as research and study aids when they prepare their research paper or curriculum project for the Summer Institute. For three weeks in July, the teachers attended lectures, discussions and gallery tours. They heard presentations by several eminent faculty members, and had an opportunity to hear many specialized scholars speaking about their particular areas of expertise. Richard Zettler and John Larson, Museum Archivist, had major re-



Volunteer Joan Hives explains to teachers at a workshop how she created this adaptation of a Persian relief carving.



Drawing by a third grader after a visit to the museum.

sponsibilities throughout the entire course, including advising on paper topics. Individual presentations were given by the following Oriental Institute faculty, staff and students: James Armstrong, Lanny Bell, Robert Braidwood, Lorelei Corcoran, McGuire Gibson, Hans Güterbock, Thomas Holland, Charles Jones, Helene J. Kantor, Peter Piccione, Robert Ritner, Martha Roth, Ray Tindel, Bruce Williams, Samuel Wolff, and Frank Yurco. Professors Jack Foster of Roosevelt University, Marvin Powell of Northern Illinois University, and Charles Reed of University of Illinois, Chicago Campus, also participated. A total of fourteen tours, each on a different topic, were given by Janet Helman, Chairman of Volunteer Guides, and myself. The Summer

Institute ended with an all-day seminar in October when teachers shared the results of their papers and projects. The National Endowment for the Humanities, which funds the Illinois Humanities Council, featured our Summer Institute in the October 1986 issue of its publication, *Humanities*. We are pleased by the interest of the Illinois Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and gratified by the very positive response of the teachers to this program.

Curriculum resource materials developed over the past six years by the Museum Education Office continued in demand by teachers who can arrange to use them in their classroom.

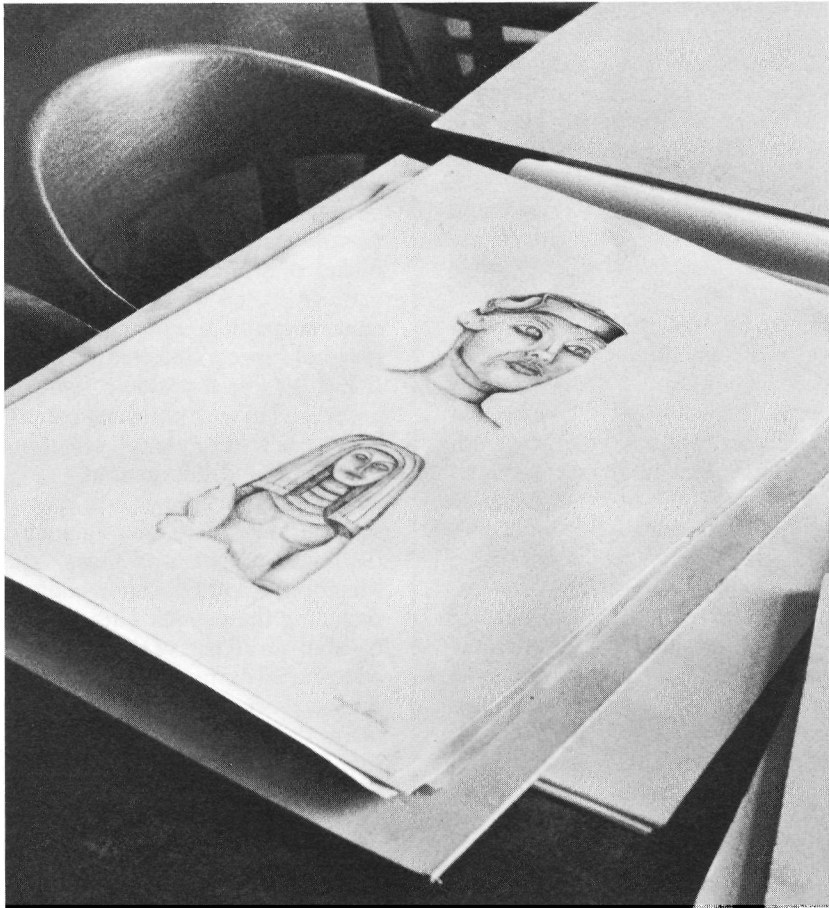
These include slide sets with narrative scripts and the mini-Museum loan boxes, as well as the Teacher Kits and Art Projects Manual, all designed to help bridge the gap between classroom and museum experiences. Approximately 150 kits and art manuals were sold during the past year and fifty teachers reserved the slide sets and loan boxes.

With the help of funds from this year's Illinois Arts Council grant, we offered for the second year, the "Sketching is Seeing" program, a six-session drawing workshop for students twelve to eighteen years of

age. Students sketched gallery objects for three hours on Saturday afternoons under the guidance of artist Myra Herr. At the end of the six weeks, the students' drawings were shown at a reception for them and their families. Fifteen students from city public and private schools were involved in the program.

The Featured Object Program, also funded partially by the Illinois Arts Council grant to the Museum Education Office, continued with publication of brochures Number Three and Four. These brochures are located in the galleries next to the object they describe and are available to be picked up free of charge

Two sketches of gallery objects made by a 17-year old participant in "Sketching Is Seeing" Program.



by visitors throughout the several months during which the object is featured. Featured Object Number Three was the Persian bull's head from Persepolis with text written by Helene J. Kantor. Number Four highlighted the gilded Baal figurine, recently returned to display as part of "The Gods of Armageddon" exhibit; the Baal brochure was researched and written by Raymond Tindel, Museum Registrar. We thank both Professor Kantor and Raymond Tindel for their authorship of these materials for the visiting public.

Five Children's Workshops were presented on Saturday mornings in January and February. Children ages six to twelve made crowns like those worn by Egyptian kings and queens, gameboards in imitation of an ivory playing board from Canaan, foundation deposit boxes containing likenesses of a Sumerian king and scrolls with scenes and hieroglyphic inscriptions from the Egyptian Book of the Dead. I would like to thank the stalwart crew of docents whose aid and inspiration make possible these two-hour tour and craft-making programs: Kitty Picken, who has worked with these programs since their inception five years ago, Roberta Tracy, for whom this was the third year, and Georgie Maynard, who helped out for the second time.

The Oriental Institute Museum participated in a state-wide Illinois Arts Council Day in the fall with a program for parents and children together. After viewing the film "Of Time, Tombs and Treasure" showing the opening of King Tut's tomb and some of the objects found in it, group members enjoyed a brief tour of the Egyptian gallery, and finished with a craft activity in which they

each decorated their own cardboard mask inspired by the face of the King Tut statue. Participants included a serious and hard-working two-year old, one elderly lady who said she was in her second childhood and two young men who claimed to be teachers; since adults were supposed to be accompanied by children, and vice versa, the unaccompanied adults felt it necessary to explain themselves. All were welcomed and all enjoyed the craft-making.

Our programs for children also include the Thursday morning Children's Special Interest Tours in July and August given by the Thursday morning docents under the leadership of Kitty Picken. Each tour is followed by a pencil and paper activity such as sketching or gallery search games. These tours have received increasing publicity in Chicago area listings of activities for children and families and they sometimes attract twenty-five to thirty children. Young visitors can always purchase for a nickel one of our Children's Adventure Sheets to help them become acquainted with objects that may hold special interest for them. It has become a common sight on a weekend to see a child and parent, adventure sheet in hand, searching for objects and information.

The Sunday Film Series, special summertime gallery talks for adults, Saturday teacher workshops, and Members' Adult Education courses, including the popular Hieroglyphs-by-Mail are all part of the Museum's educational outreach to its adult audience. I would like to thank the many docents and Oriental Institute faculty and staff whose efforts combine to make these programs



Docent Kitty Picken models a replica of the double crown of Egypt as she tells Summer Institute teachers about craft projects related to artifacts at the Museum.

possible. For outreach to people in off-site locations, I thank especially Docent Mary Jo Khuri, who for several years has represented the Museum in occasional programs at senior citizen centers and rehabilitation and convalescent centers, where she presents slide talks and shows reproductions of artifacts to audiences who share an interest in the ancient Near East but in many cases may not be able to visit the galleries.

At the request of Dr. Alice Jurica, Head of the Bureau of Social Studies Curriculum for the Chicago Board of Education, I presented a program about the Museum's educational resources

at an all-day seminar sponsored by the Board of Education and held at the Field Museum. Approximately a hundred public school teachers of social studies subjects elected to hear the presentation and several followed up with requests for information, purchase of Teacher Kits, or reservations to bring their classes for tours.

In February I presented a session on use of the Museum resources in the social studies curriculum to a class of teacher trainees at DePaul University, taking advantage of an opportunity to discuss with future teachers the idea of integrating Museum educational resources into the classroom curriculum. These young people were an interested, thoughtful and receptive group, and will,

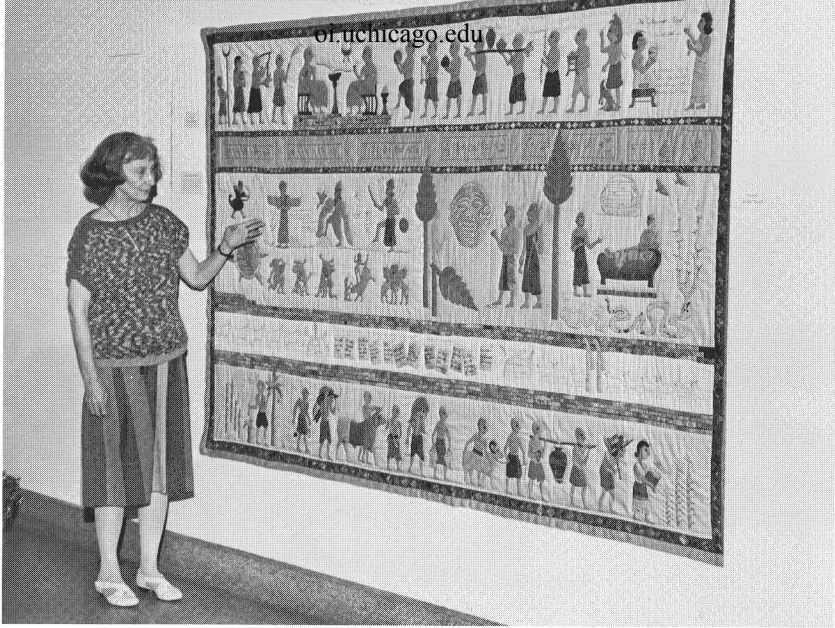
hopefully, be among the teachers who bring classes to the Museum in the near future.

A high point of the year for our office was the annual Members' Dinner, which this year honored the Volunteer Guide Program and the Museum Education Office. Proceeds from the Dinner have been put to work in office renovations to organize our mutual and very small

space in more efficient ways, making more space for the Docent Library and the new word-processor which will facilitate communication with docents and teachers. We are especially grateful to Gretel Braidwood, the Membership Secretary, and her staff for the weeks of planning and work, and to all the Museum staff who cooperated to make possible a festive evening in

Docent Georgie Maynard helps a child prepare for work at one of the Saturday morning craft workshops.





At this year's annual dinner, which honored the Museum Education and Volunteer programs, Institute member Virginia Piland displayed the tapestry she had made on the Gilgamesh epic.

honor of these two programs. While technically separate, the two programs are actually highly interdependent. The Education Program relies on the willingness and the expertise of all the volunteer guides. I extend a very special thank-you to Janet Helman, the Volunteer Chairman, for her support at all levels and her participation in many projects of the Education Program, including long hours in the Summer Teacher Institute.

A number of volunteers have offered extra assistance to the Museum Education Program. I would like to acknowledge here the help of Peggy Grant, for all-around support and advice, and the time-consuming service of translating forty pages of French into readable English for the Summer Institute teachers. Joan Hives has continued to help and advise with word-processing, graphics and layout work for many of our printed materials, as well as assist with craft ideas and samples; we especially ap-

preciate her time and creativity in making the craft items for the Members' Dinner auction. Roberta Tracy has maintained the Education Office mailing lists and produced them at appropriate times from the still unfathomable computer, whose secrets this office is just beginning to unravel; we regret to report that Roberta has now moved to Vermont, hastening our acquisition of computer skills. A mainstay of our office this past year has been Rainer Mack, our exceptionally competent and creative student assistant, whose fifteen hours of help each week have been both essential and greatly appreciated.

The Museum Education Program of the Oriental Institute Museum is the result of many minds and many hands working together. Developing programs and activities for teachers and students, children and adults, we continue to reach out in both new and old ways to the Museum's diverse and eager public audiences.