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*Membership
Program*

Gretel Braidwood

The Oriental Institute maintains an active membership program to help our members keep current with the ever increasing knowledge about the

rise of man's civilization in the ancient Near East. ▼ Members receive a bi-monthly newsletter and an *Annual Report*. An evening lecture series for members, with both outside lecturers and speakers from the Oriental Institute, is offered and members may also participate in archaeological tours to the Near East. The offices and basement of the Institute are opened to members for Members' Day every year and a half, with behind-the-scenes tours of the projects and workrooms of the Oriental Institute. The opening lecture for the 1987-88 membership series was presented in October by Edith Porada, Columbia University, on "Monsters, Demons, and Other Figures of Ancient Mesopotamian Art" and was followed by a gala reception in the Museum. In November we heard from James Sanders of the Ancient Biblical Manuscript Center in Claremont, California, on "The Dead Sea Scrolls Today," followed later in the month by David O'Connor, University Museum, Philadelphia, on "Palace and Cosmos in Ancient Egypt." In December, the Oriental Institute's Martha Roth presented "Matrimony and Patrimony: Marriage in First Millennium Babylonia." January lecturers were Alan Peatfield, The British School of Archaeology, Athens, talking on "Minoan Religion: New Developments and Near Eastern Connections" (jointly sponsored by the Chicago Society of the A.I.A.) and the Institute's Donald Whitcomb on "Aqaba - Port of Palestine on the China Sea." February saw three more Oriental Institute lecturers, Thomas Holland on "Sweyhat: an Ur III Outpost on the Euphrates River in Syria" and Gene Gragg and Dennis Pardee speaking jointly about "Shem, Ham (and Japeth): Were Do the Languages of the Ancient Near East Come From?" March brought another joint lecture with the Chicago Society of the A.I.A., Thomas Jacobson of Indiana University on "Man and the Sea in Prehistoric Greece and the Aegean Islands." In April we heard from William Dever, the University of Arizona, on "Archaeology and "Popular Cult" in Ancient Israel," and Gus Van Beek from the Smithsonian Institution gave us an "Overview of the Excavations of Tell Jemmeh, Israel." The series ended in May with a

presentation by Douglas Esse, The Oriental Institute, on "Ashkelon in the Persian Period: a Levantine Emporium." There were also three summer lectures. In June Oriental Institute Conservator, Laura D'Alessandro, spoke on "Conservation Concerns at The

*The Oriental
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1987-1988
Annual Report*

Oriental Institute,” in July the Institute’s W. Raymond Johnson told us about “A New Perspective on the Deified Amenhotep III and His Role in the Cult of the Aten,” and in August Michael Wise, the University of Chicago, presented “A Dead Sea Scroll Enigma: The Purpose and Provenance of the Temple Scroll.” Each of the lectures was followed by a reception in the Museum halls or the Institute’s garden, allowing the speakers and audience a chance to chat informally.

News & Notes, the bimonthly newsletter, has articles about the current work of the Oriental Institute, both in the field and here in Chicago; and also lists the various upcoming programs, events, exhibitions, lectures, and the members’ courses offered every quarter by the Institute’s Education Office.

In November the Membership and Education Offices joined forces to present a day-long symposium about Egypt’s Amarna period. Seven Egyptologists lectured on every phase of this important moment in Egyptian history. The exhausted audience remained enthusiastic to the end, every seat in the auditorium was filled and a number of disappointed people had to be turned away.

Egyptologist Robert Ritner led the Institute’s annual tour to Egypt in March. His enthusiastic group are mostly ready to travel with him again if he does a “second-timers” tour as he promises.

The Visiting Committee to the Oriental Institute presented its annual dinner this year on the 16th of May. Honoring the Institute’s excavations



Guests at the Visiting Committee’s May dinner for the excavations at Nippur examining the special exhibit mounted for the occasion.





*The Egypt tour relaxes on a felucca ride in Aswan.
Photo by William Hoffman*

at Nippur, it featured a special exhibition celebrating 100 years of American work at Nippur, and 40 years of Oriental Institute's excavations at this important site in Iraq. Those attending enjoyed cocktails in the Iranian Hall and the courtyard garden and dinner among the mummies and Assyrian reliefs in the Museum.

People are what make the membership program work. Long-time volunteer Helen Glennon prepares and sends out the never-ending cycle of monthly renewal notices. The head of the Institute's Visiting Committee's



Sub-committee on Development Jill Carlotta Maher works with us on every phase of raising money for the Institute and its projects. Other volunteers lend a hand when we are pressed and, last but not least, new Membership Associate Kathryn St John helps make sure everything and everyone works together.