

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

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PEOPLE

The opening lecture for the 1989-90 membership series was presented in October by William Sumner, The Oriental Institute, on "The Persians and Elamites in Anshan", and was followed by a gala reception in the museum. In November we heard from Elizabeth Stone and Paul Zimansky, State University of New York, Stony Brook, and Boston University, on "The Archaeology of Mashkan-Shapir: the Anatomy of a Mesopotamian City." In December, The Oriental Institute's Matthew Stolper presented a joint lecture with the Chicago Society of the A.I.A., "Fire in Babylon, Fire in Syria: the Kasr Texts and Achaemenid Babylonia." January lecturers were Robert and Linda Braidwood, The Oriental Institute, "Digging Beyond the Euphrates." March brought T. G. Harry James, The British Museum, speaking on "Howard Carter: the Early Years." In April we heard from Ann Murray, The University of London, "Views from a Turkish Mountain Top: the Græco-Persian Burial Complex on Nemrut Dagh, Turkey" (another joint lecture with the Chicago Society of the A.I.A.), and Rita Freed, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, ended the series in May with "Excavating Ancient Memphis, Egypt." There were also two summer lectures. The Institute's Steven W. Cole told us about "Nippur, Assyria, and the Tribes of

Babylonia: Evidence from the Recently Excavated Governor's Archive," and Richard L. Jasnow, the Assistant Director of the Epigraphic Survey, presented "And Pharaoh Laughed...: A Look at the Lighter Side of the Sons of Re." The speakers and audience had a chance to chat informally at the gallery receptions which followed each of the lectures.

The bimonthly newsletter, *News & Notes*, contains 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. The *Annual Report* publishes longer articles which cover all phases of the Institute's research for the year just past.

The Membership and Education Offices again joined forces in November to present their third day-long symposium, "Images of Power: the Iconography of Kingship in the Ancient Near East." The attendance for these symposia continues to be large and enthusiastic. An in-depth look at an ancient Near Eastern topic seems to be a sought after program format.

The Institute's tours to the Middle East have become so popular that the 1989-90 season featured two tours to Egypt. Assistant Curator Lorelei Corcoran led one in October of 1990, and the Associate Editor of the Demotic Dictionary, Robert Ritner, led his usual trip in March. Both groups included a visit to Alexandria in the Delta area on their itineraries.

May 21st was the date of the Visiting Committee's festive annual dinner. This year, it honored the work of archaeologist Douglas Esse at Tell Yaqush in Israel. Esse had just received a three year matching grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, so contributions made for this event were doubled for the excavation. Those attending the dinner enjoyed cocktails in the Palestinian and Persian halls and then moved on to dinner in the Assyrian and Egyptian halls.

The Membership Program is dependent upon many people. Volunteer Helen Glennon works on our mailings, including the never ending preparation of the monthly renewal notices. Visiting Committee member Jill Carlotta Maher works tirelessly to raise money for the Institute and its projects. Many other staff and volunteers also assist with various phases of our programs, and membership associate Karen Kao was an invaluable help over the year. She left the Membership Office in May and is sorely missed.

