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NEWS & NOTES

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WATER AND RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT AQABA

By Donald S. Whitcomb, Research Associate (Associate Professor), The Oriental Institute

The recent excavations at Aqaba, from November 1st through December 23rd, 1993, marked the sixth season at this early Islamic port. The goal of the excavations continues to be the multifaceted exploration of the history of this site, from the earliest Islamic period ca. 650 A.D. through the Fatimid period (abandoned at the end of the eleventh century). This year the actual process of digging brought forcibly to our attention the variety of interactions between the site and water.

Water is one of the key factors for settlement in most parts of the Middle East. An examination of the occurrence of groundwater around the Gulf of Aqaba points to the limitations on settlement and opportunities for development. The subterranean flow of water from the Wadi Araba in the north swings to the east, beneath the modern town of Aqaba; this leaves its sister city, Eilat, reliant on desalinated seawater. The direction of this groundwater has determined the location of ancient settlement—Bronze Age, Iron Age, Nabataean, and Byzantine sites are found only on the eastern, Jordanian side of the gulf. The abundant groundwater here has meant that the yearly Hajj caravan, bearing thousands of Muslim pilgrims from North Africa, Egypt, and Palestine, found a refreshing rest in Aqaba, or Ayla as it was then called.

Groundwater, somewhat brackish but potable, may be scooped from the sands right on Aqaba's beaches. On the archaeological site, it lies about 4.0 m below surface. We first encountered the groundwater in 1987 in front of the Egyptian Gate; water covered the threshold of the gate, just as Guillermo Algaze uncovered it. Last

year, we reached a very early floor next to the Syrian Gate; several paving stones were removed and a quantity of sherds obtained before the water came rushing into the hole. This year we intended to explore the Large Enclosure, the largest structure known on the site and located over 4.0 m above the water.

The Large Enclosure was first excavated in 1987 and touched upon in 1992, as reported in the Oriental Institute's *Annual Reports* for those years. This preliminary work indicated a special structure with thick, well-constructed exterior walls, and a pier going down very deep. The upper stratum was a thick gravel layer. Most importantly, several column drums were found, apparently standing upright in situ. In 1992, the discovery of the Syrian Street and its stratification confirmed the suspicion that the Large Enclosure was built in the early Abbasid period (phase B, 750–850 A.D.). This structure was part

of the reconstruction of the city after the 748 earthquake, the building of which encroached on one of the axial streets of the original city. Alteration of an urban street design is, and was, extremely rare; this suggested that the Large Enclosure was a very important structure that needed to be enlarged for the Abbasid city. Venturing into the realm of hypothesis, it was suggested that this might be the Congregational Mosque originally built by Uthman ibn Affan about 650. Such a find would be an important addition to the history of Ayla and indeed to early Islamic architecture.

During the first weeks of November 1993 we succeeded in revealing a peristyle courtyard. The arcade was supported by a complex configuration of columns and plastered piers, representing two phases of building. Unfortunately, all that remained was the basal elements and the foundations,

(continued on page 2)



Donald Whitcomb assisted by his children Felicia (left) and J. J. at Aqaba, Jordan



1993 excavations at Aqaba, with the Congregational Mosque in the left foreground and the city wall of Ayla on the right

around which were multiple layers of gravel floors, just beneath the modern surface. The gravel contained layers of plaster that suggested plaster runoff from walls and ceiling more than actual plaster flooring. A trench was placed next to one of the foundation piers to examine its depth, attendant stratification, and dating. Beneath the floors the pier descended one, two, three, four meters—into the water table. Just above the water was the foundation of a building made of red and white sandstone, which had turned to sand-mud. This early structure lined up with the edge of the original axial street. Between this early building and the late floors was 3.5 m of intentional deposition, soil fill with artifacts of the Umayyad period (phase A, 650–750 A.D.).

As the excavations extended to the east, we encountered further piers and round foundations, both increasingly associated with running foundations of limited depth (generally 1.5–2.0 m deep). These foundations were in turn associated with earlier walls of mudbrick as well as stone. Two students, Ra'd El-Shara and Clemens Reichel, mastered the difficult detection of mudbrick and robbed out stone walls. Some of the extant stone walls had been used as foundations for the Abbasid Large Enclo-

sure, suggesting there existed an earlier form of this building. All this made for an increasingly complex architectural history, one in which structural elements were deeply buried and revealed only as isolated fragments. From this frustration came an inspiration, to extend the excavations into the wadi.

The wadi is a typical feature of the region, a wide flood channel; this channel, cutting across the ruins of Ayla, was first thought to be excavated by the British army in 1942. More recently, a hypothesis has been advanced (*Oriental Institute Annual Report 1992–93*, p. 19) that the wadi represents a geological fault, most likely a result of the earthquake of 1068. In any case, it was assumed that archaeological remains would have been removed long ago. Despite this, two trial trenches were placed in the bed of the wadi—both revealed substantial walls, and even a standing column, beneath about 1.0 m of silt. This encouraged us to attempt to follow the city wall across the wadi bed, hoping to find a disjuncture (lateral movement or sudden subsidence) that would confirm the existence of a fault. Impatience proved disastrous: we introduced a bulldozer to scrape off the top meter of silt; this worked well until we approached the bridge.

As the site supervisor and Egyptology student John Nolan shouted a memorable “*shilu* (remove it!),” the bulldozer smashed a pressurized sewer pipe. Needless to say, this occurred on a Thursday afternoon and sewage ran through the wadi over the weekend. In developmental terms, this was a transfer of technology problem; while one might say this to a hundred Egyptian fellahin with no ill effect, one doesn't use such language to a bulldozer operator.

Toward the end of the excavations, when memory (and the smell) of this misfortune had dissipated, we returned to the wadi. This time we cleaned the bank of the wadi and found major walls in this section; we followed these walls across the wadi bed, almost to the eastern bank. This trench was 2.0–3.0 m wide and contained substantial architectural fragments, with disjunctions that might have been evidence of subsidence (faulting?). The area was cleaned for planning and section drawing, but the risk of working in a wadi became all too clear that evening—we had horrible, heavy rains. The Corniche Road was knee-deep and the wadi was a raging torrent of waters climbing the banks toward our trenches. The next day, staff and workmen all huddled dispirited in the wet morning chill.

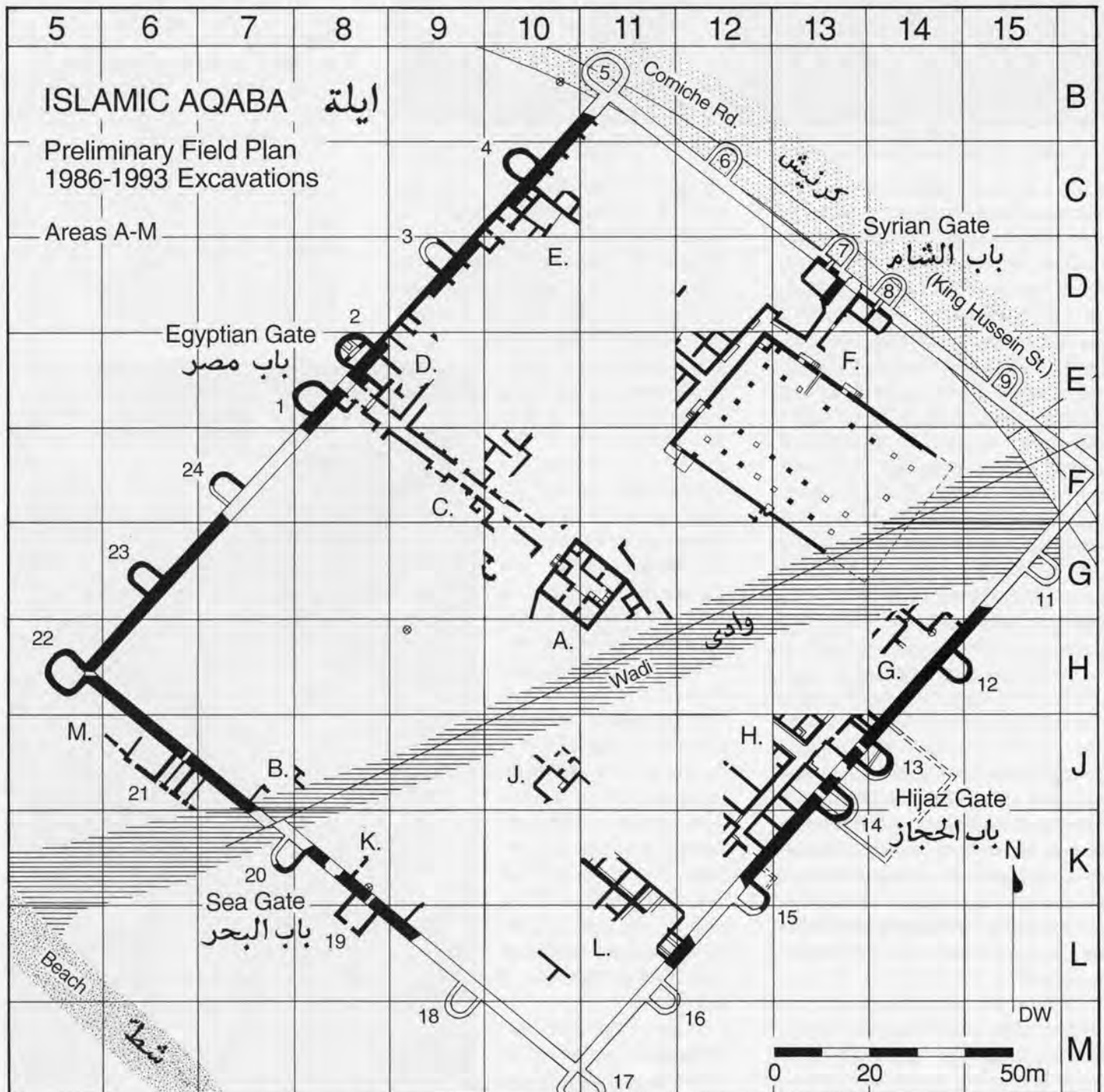
Our surveyor, Hugh Barnes, quickly laid out a grid on the highest remaining portions of the Large Enclosure; everyone pitched in and work continued—the soil was wetted only about 10 cm deep due to the rapid runoff typical of desertic conditions. In fact, rain is rare in Aqaba and makes no contribution to agriculture other than generally replenishing the groundwater (and flooding the improvident).

Thus water impinged on our ex-

cavations in three forms: groundwater, rainfall, and water disposal (a piped form). There is a fourth type of water source in Aqaba, manifest on the beaches less than 100 m away from the trenches. The seashore was for us a source of pleasant evening walks and occasional swimming. Always present offshore were numerous large freighters, reminding us of the commercial role of the port of Aqaba. The Red Sea was a route of trade and

cultural connections in the early Islamic period as well. A special type of seventh century amphora was used as a cargo container by the traders. Such amphoras have been found near Aden and even as far as Axum in modern Ethiopia. We found startling evidence of this Ethiopian connection in an Axumite coin, the second from our excavations.

The expansion in Red Sea commerce after the Muslim conquest



Plan of the excavations at the Islamic site of Ayla (Aqaba) from 1986 to 1993. Axial streets once connected the four gates



Clemens Reichel records an amphora used as a container for overseas trade

meant a dramatic need for more amphoras. Large kilns were reported to us in 1987 and the threat of their destruction sent us off the site, about 500 m into a residential part of modern Aqaba. We were lucky to have two specialists in ceramic kilns, Dr. Khairieh Amr and Ansam Malkawi, who began to dig up the garden of an apartment building. The trenches were oddly shaped, as we avoided several lemon trees, but the result was most satisfactory. Two kilns were partially uncovered; the larger was almost 4.0 m in diameter and over 2.0 m in preserved height to the firing floor. The second kiln was only slightly smaller with the firing floor completely preserved; the firing chamber was a strange cave with green glassy walls and arches made of spoiled amphoras. Amused neighbors constantly looked in and often mentioned other kilns discovered during construction of the neighborhood. This must have been an industrial area in the seventh century, indicating a vital increase in occupation and commerce. The amphoras and other pottery forms completely paralleled the ceramics found beneath the Large Enclosure.

While the kiln excavation proceeded with almost surgical precision, we expanded operations in the Large Enclosure, which was proving to be a large hypostyle building with a central courtyard. The excavation

of the southwestern wall was not without its moments of excitement, due mainly to the talented digging of May Shaer. She carefully recovered numerous tesserae located quite close to the surface, showing that the inner face of the wall was once covered with glass mosaics. A small cache of gold coins was found within the upper layers of the gravel floor. These six dinars of the Fatimid period were minted in North Africa (in modern Tunisia) and, like the Sijilmasa hoard found in 1993, they testify to the economic connection between this region and Aqaba. The wall seemed without special features until we uncovered a niche with a platform stretching before it and a semi-circular salient projecting from the exterior face. The niche had all the characteristics of a *mihrab*, the focal feature of all mosques indicating the *qibla* or direction of prayer.

The architectural features of the Large Enclosure are consistent with early mosques:

1. The size is within the most common range for urban mosques.
2. The building had at least three entrances, approached by platform stairways.
3. In the northern corner was a square structure that might have served as a tower (or *sauma'a*, an early minaret).
4. The peristyle of columns has an additional row on the southwestern side forming a covered area of two *riwaqs*, i.e., the sanctuary.
5. The multiple layers of flooring composed of clean gravel without any artifacts (excepting the six dinars).
6. Finally, the single niche in the south wall, its form very similar to early Islamic *mihrabs*.

Yet we hesitated to label this the Congregational Mosque (*masjid Jami'*) of early Islamic Ayla. The problem in this identification is the southwest orientation of the *qibla* wall; common *qibla* in southern Syria and Jordan is due south, and the ac-

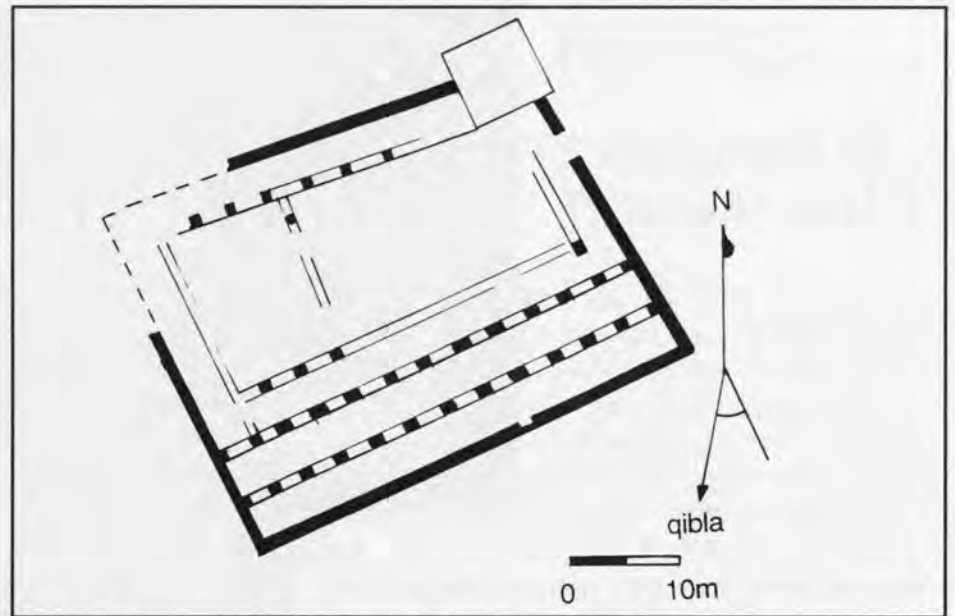


Pottery kilns recently discovered at Aqaba, Jordan

tual direction of Mecca is slightly east of south. Did the early Muslims of Ayla pray in the direction of Upper Egypt? Now for various reasons, early mosques are often oriented incorrectly, as for instance Wasit in southern Iraq, which was off by some 34°. Another example of an excavated mosque is that of Qal'at 'Ana on the Euphrates, where the ninth century mosque had a *qibla* direction some 35° in error. Northedge (1988, p. 17) suggests this orientation was due to a lack of space on the island.

One might argue that, due to the configuration of the head of the gulf of Aqaba, southwest is the direction of the Arabian coast. More interesting is the possibility that the original mosque was given the same orientation as early mosques in northwestern Arabia (the Hijaz). Nevertheless, despite numerous comparisons and speculative reasons, this *qibla* represents a variation to a strong Muslim tradition and the identification as a mosque must remain somewhat tentative.

We began this season at Aqaba amidst pervasive rumors that this was our last year of excavations; this was

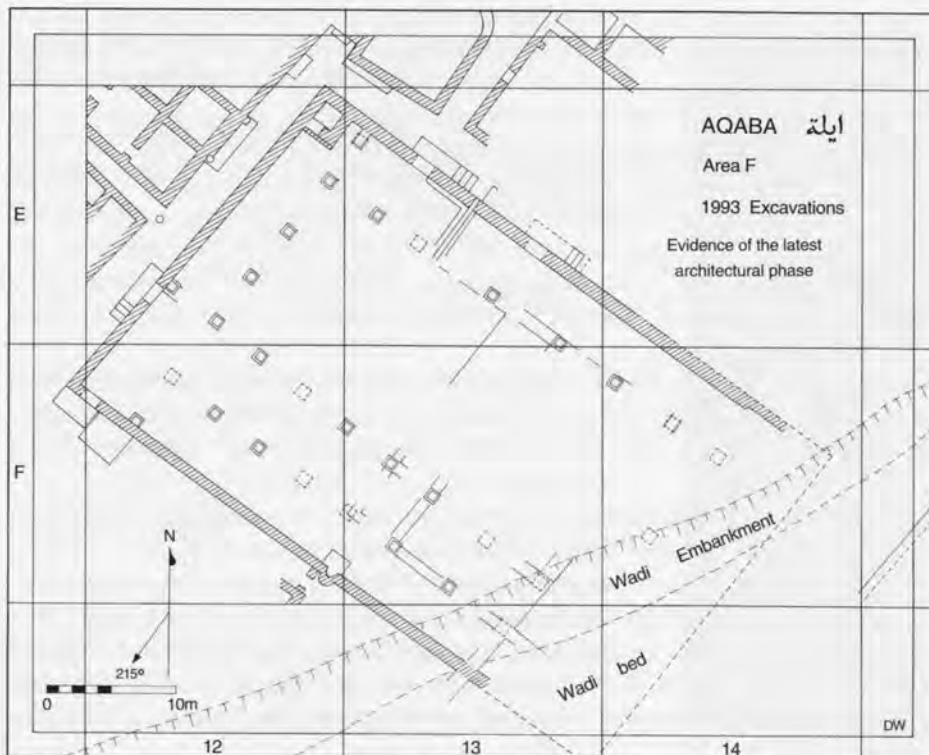


Plan and orientation of mosque at 'Ana, similar to that at Aqaba

a misunderstanding—this was the last season of funding under a USAID grant, administered by the American Center of Oriental Research. Reports of the death of this project have been “greatly exaggerated.” In point of fact, it is slightly embarrassing, but by no means unusual, to come back from a major excavation with good results and more questions. (I like to imagine that now we have better

questions.) Our efforts in the bed of the wadi were hampered by water but provided a dramatic realization. The wadi can be excavated quickly and efficiently and will provide a large exposure, perhaps 1/10th of the walled town; this architecture will reveal the organization of the Umayyad and Rashidun city, evidence which has been lacking due to the deep (3.0+ m) overburden of later periods. Architecture in the wadi will also provide a tangible hope for clarification of the Large Enclosure, the identification of which will remain problematic until an inscription or the earlier Umayyad period mosque is discovered. The waters of Ayla have guarded these monuments, but with new sources of funding Ayla will soon yield important pieces of history for early Islamic civilization.

Donald S. Whitcomb has conducted the excavations at Aqaba, Jordan, since 1986. This year's Annual Dinner will be held to benefit Don's future excavations at the site. The excavations at Aqaba were also featured on the cover and divider pages of the Oriental Institute's 1992-1993 Annual Report.



Foundations of possible Congregational Mosque uncovered during 1993 excavations at Aqaba, Jordan



Carolyn Livingood
(December 6, 1913–January 4, 1994)

Carolyn (Zipf) Livingood, a long-time member and volunteer at the Oriental Institute, died in Hinsdale, Illinois, on January 4, 1994. She was 81.

Carolyn was born in San Francisco, California. She earned a degree in history at the University of California, Berkeley, where she met and married John Jacob Livingood, a physicist from Cincinnati, who predeceased her. They leave two sons, Charles and John, and two grandchildren.

In 1953, Carolyn Livingood began making the long trip from Hinsdale to Hyde Park to volunteer one day a week at the Oriental Institute. One of her early projects was the restoration of a section of ancient Egyptian tile from the palace of Amun-hotep III at Malkata, which the Oriental Institute Museum had acquired from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

During the first dozen years of her association with the Oriental Institute, Carolyn Livingood worked primarily as a Museum volunteer under the supervision of Professors P. P. Delougaz, Helene J. Kantor, Donald E. McCown, and Keith C. Seele. During the same period, Carolyn developed a keen interest in politics: in the early 1960s, she served as president of the National Council of Republican Workshops, and campaigned for Charles Percy in 1964 when he ran for governor of Illinois.

Shortly after the 1964 campaign, Carolyn began to devote more time to the Oriental Institute. In 1965, Director Robert McCormick Adams asked Carolyn if she would undertake the job of Museum Secretary, with special responsibility for developing a volunteer guide program for the Oriental Institute Museum. The Volunteer Guide Program was officially launched with a luncheon held on Tuesday, January 11, 1966. Twenty-four women from Chicago and the suburbs were signed up for the original seven-week training course. A group of forty volunteers signed up for the second training course held in the autumn of the same year. Mrs. Livingood served as Museum Secretary from 1965/66 through 1973/74. With Mrs. Theodore D. Tieken, she also launched the Oriental Institute Museum's gift shop, the *Suq*, which opened on December 7, 1966. In 1974/75, Mrs. Livingood "retired" and Jill Carlotta Maher became Chairman of Volunteer Programs. Following her "retirement," Carolyn assisted Professor Helene J. Kantor by typing drafts of the manuscript for the publication of the excavations at Chogha Mish in Iran. More recently, she served as an office volunteer working in the Oriental Institute Photographic Archives. Mrs. Livingood was appointed to the Oriental Institute's Visiting Committee in 1965, and had served as its Vice-Chairman since 1978.

Together with her late husband Jack and with various friends, Mrs. Livingood traveled extensively in the Middle East and Africa, where she visited many of the sites excavated by the Oriental Institute. In his Easter 1965 *Archaeological Newsletter*, McGuire Gibson mentioned the Livingoods' visit to a rain-soaked Nippur, in the wake of a visit from Betty Tieken and her daughter.

Carolyn Livingood devoted over forty years of volunteer service to the benefit of the Oriental Institute; her enthusiasm and dedication made her a role model for an entire generation of Oriental Institute Museum docents and volunteers. Indeed, there are few members of the Oriental Institute community who have not been touched by Carolyn's generosity, inspiration, and idealism. On December 9, 1991, in recognition of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Volunteer Program, Carolyn was honored at the annual docent holiday party, where she was surprised with an official proclamation of "Carolyn Livingood Day" in Chicago, signed by Mayor Richard M. Daley (See *News & Notes*, No. 133, Spring 1992, page 18.). Until last October, Carolyn had maintained a regular schedule of appointments and activities, which included the Steering Committee of the Women's Board of the University of Chicago.

A memorial service for Carolyn Livingood will be held at Bond Chapel on the University of Chicago campus in Hyde Park on Friday, April 15, 1994, at 3:00 p.m. A reception at the Oriental Institute will follow.

—John A. Larson, Museum Archivist

DOCENT AND VOLUNTEER *NEWS*



Docent Teddy Buddington greets (but doesn't touch!) an old friend in Assyrian Gallery

DOCENTS CELEBRATE ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

On Monday, December 13, 1993, the docents and volunteers of the Oriental Institute gathered to celebrate at the annual Holiday Docent Day and Buffet Luncheon. After a morning presentation by Robert and Linda Braidwood on "The Prehistoric Project: A Retrospective View," the volunteers were treated to a Middle Eastern lunch catered by the Cedars of Lebanon restaurant. Immediately following the luncheon, the volunteers gathered in James Henry Breasted Hall to honor this year's Longevity Award recipients. A special tribute was paid to Janet Helman for her outstanding fifteen years of service to the Oriental Institute. Concluding the day's activities, a champagne dessert reception was served in the Assyrian Gallery.

LONGEVITY AWARDS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS:

- Twenty Years** Sally Grunsfeld
Fifteen Years Muriel Brauer, Anita Greenberg, Janet Helman, Marsha Holden, Peggy Kovacs, Norma Vandermeulen
Ten Years Inger Kirsten, Beverly Wilson, Carole Yoshida
Five Years Bill Boone, John Gay, Mary Grimshaw, Daila Shefner
One Year Bernadine Basile, Jane Belcher, Erl Dordal, Bettie Dwinell, Lewis Ginsberg, Irene Glassner, Kaylin Goldstein, Ira Hardman, Lorraine Kubiak, Carole Krucoff, Michael Loveless, Johanna Lucas, Roy Miller, Kathy Mineck, Ken Moore, Denise Paul, Diane Posner, Deloris Sanders, Bernadette Strnad, Annette Teaney, Jane Thain, Eve Weinberg



Three generations of docent chairpersons: Peggy Grant (left), Janet Helman (seated), Terry Friedman (center), and Cathy Duenas (right)

CALENDAR

MEMBERS' LECTURES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday, March 4 7:00 p.m.

Heather Lechtman
M.I.T. Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology
"Andean Prehistoric Metallurgy: The Culture of Technology"
James Henry Breasted Hall

Wednesday, March 16 7:30 p.m.

Donald S. Whitcomb
The Oriental Institute
"Recent Excavations at Aqaba"
James Henry Breasted Hall
Reception to follow

Wednesday, April 20 7:30 p.m.

Karla Kroeper
Egyptian Museum, Berlin
"A Step Out of the Darkness: the Delta at the Beginning of Pharaonic Egypt"
James Henry Breasted Hall
Reception to follow

Wednesday, May 4 7:30 p.m.

Sarah Wisseman
University of Illinois-Urbana
"Interdisciplinary Analysis of a Roman Period Egyptian (Child) Mummy"
James Henry Breasted Hall
Reception to follow
Co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America

Monday, May 23

The Oriental Institute Annual Dinner
Celebrating the Excavations at Aqaba

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Call the Membership Office at 312/702-1677
for more information on forthcoming
Associates events

OF

MEMBERS' TRAVEL PROGRAM

May 14–15

Egypt in Chicago
Lecturer: Emily Teeter
Assistant Curator, Oriental Institute Museum

May 24–June 9

Ancient Treasures of Jordan and Israel
Lecturer: Timothy P. Harrison
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

October 31–November 20

Incense Routes of Arabia: Oman, Yemen, and Bahrain
Lecturer: Emily Teeter, Ph.D., Assistant Curator, Oriental Institute Museum

November 20–December 1

Museums of Paris and Berlin
Lecturer: Karen L. Wilson, Curator, Oriental Institute Museum

See page 15 for more information

ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

April 5–May 24

Magic and Medicine in Ancient Egypt
Instructor: Peter Piccione

April 6–May 25

The History of Ancient Palestine
Instructor: Timothy J. Harrison

April 9–May 28

Egypt and the Ancient African Kingdoms of Nubia
Instructor: Frank Yurco

April 9–May 28

The Art and Archaeology of Mesopotamia
Instructor: Augusta McMahon

See pages 10–11 for more information

WEDNESDAY EVENING GALLERY PROGRAMS

Wednesday, April 27

5:30 p.m.

"Scribes and Secretaries of Ancient Egypt"
Lanny Bell, Associate Professor, Oriental Institute

Wednesday, May 18

6:30 p.m.

"Cultivating Antiquity: Growing an Ancient Garden"
Mary Shea and Rita Picken, Oriental Institute Volunteers

See page 12 for more information

EVENTS

SUNDAY FILMS

All films are shown at 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. Each film lasts approximately 30 minutes, is offered free of charge, and is followed by a gallery tour.

- April 3** Ancient Lives, the film series that explores daily life in the ancient Egyptian village of Deir el-Medina continues with "Temple Priest and Civil Servant"
- 10** Ancient Lives: "Dreams and Rituals"
- 17** Ancient Lives: "The Year of the Hyena"
- 24** Preserving Egypt's Past. This National Geographic film is being shown in conjunction with the April 1994 celebration of Earth Day. See separate listing for Oriental Institute Earth Day events on page 12
- May 1** Ancient Lives film series concludes with "The Deserted Village"
- 8** Of Time, Tombs, and Treasure
- 15** The Big Dig
- 22** Turkey: Crossroads of the Ancient World
- 29** The Royal Archives of Ebla (58 minutes)

"BACK TO THE PAST"

SUNDAY FAMILY PROGRAMS

Every Sunday at the Oriental Institute, the whole family can take a trip to the ancient past. Museum gallery adventures are followed by hands-on activities for the entire family. Suggested for children ages 6-12 accompanied by an adult, each program is offered continuously from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. All programs are free of charge and reservations are not required.

Discover ancient Africa at Sunday Family Programs this spring:

Growing Up in Ancient Egypt is the theme for April. The Treasures of Ancient Nubia is the theme for May.

All Moms accompanied by their children will receive a free gift on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8th.

Family programs at the Oriental Institute are supported by the Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust.

SPRING 1994

SKETCHING IN THE GALLERIES

Wednesday evenings, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., beginning April 6, 1994

See page 13 for more information

SPECIAL EVENTS

These events are offered in conjunction with the April 1994 celebration of **Earth Day** and are co-sponsored by Earth Day Illinois.

Sunday, April 24

"Preserving Egypt's Past"

The film will be shown on the half-hour from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

"Festival of Crafts"

In the galleries after 12:30 p.m.

Friday, April 29, 6:30 p.m.

Tony Wilkinson, Research Associate, Oriental Institute.

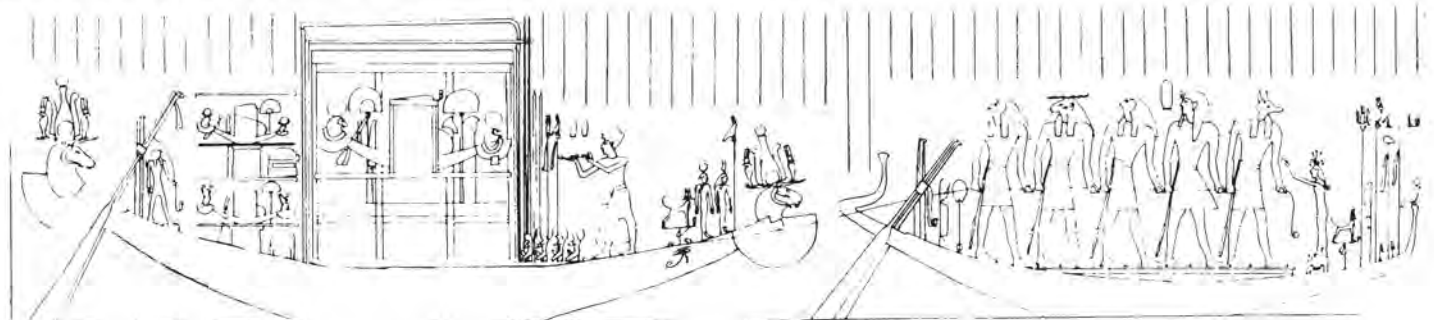
"An Age-Old Problem: Competition for Water in the Ancient Near East"

See page 12 for more details

"A NIGHT ON THE NILE"—AN OVERNIGHT FOR FAMILIES AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM

Saturday, April 16, 6:15 p.m., to Sunday, April 17, 9:00 a.m.

See page 13 for more information



Illustrations on pages 9, 11, and 13 are from The Great Hypostyle Hall at Karnak, OIP 106

ADULT EDUCATION

MAGIC AND MEDICINE IN ANCIENT EGYPT

April 5–May 24, 1994

This course will examine the healing arts of ancient Egypt as a key to comprehending the motivations, world view, and religious thoughts of the ancient Egyptians. Special attention will be given to the practice of magical medicine, with its spells and charms, as well as to the connection between magical and rational therapies. Other topics include mummification, the background and training of the physician, his place in society, and the role of Egyptian temples as centers of medical treatment and pilgrimage. Presenting an interdisciplinary approach to Egyptian medicine, the course will combine medical and religious texts with archaeology to arrive at a broader understanding of ancient Egyptian society.

INSTRUCTOR Peter Piccione, an Egyptologist and experienced adult education instructor, holds a Ph.D. from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. The course will meet at the Oriental Institute on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., beginning **April 5, 1994 and continuing through May 24, 1994**. The instructor will provide a list of suggested readings at the first class session.

THE HISTORY OF ANCIENT PALESTINE

April 6–May 25, 1994

As a strategic land bridge between three of the world's continents, Palestine has always had an importance beyond all proportion to its size. The Aramaeans, Philistines, Israelites, and other peoples emerged as distinct political entities in ancient Palestine, endlessly struggling to dominate each other yet still survive the imperial ambitions of stronger Near Eastern powers. Using both literary and archaeological sources, this course will trace the social and political history of ancient Palestine from the first appearance of written records until the conquest of Alexander the Great. The cultural and religious life of the region will also be examined, with emphasis on the creation of the alphabet and the development of monotheism.

INSTRUCTOR Timothy J. Harrison is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. He has led archaeological field work in Israel and Jordan and has been a visiting teacher and guest lecturer for a wide variety of audiences. The course will meet at the Oriental Institute on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., beginning on **April 6, 1994 and continuing through May 25, 1994**.

Required text:

The History of Ancient Palestine. By Gösta W. Ahlström. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1993.

EGYPT AND THE ANCIENT AFRICAN KINGDOMS OF NUBIA

April 9–May 28, 1994

Throughout antiquity the kingdoms of Nubia were powerful and wealthy African rivals to ancient Egypt. Located just to the south of Egypt, Nubia was rich in gold and other resources, and its military might was always a potential threat to Egyptian pharaohs. For three thousand years, Egypt alternately controlled and then struggled against Nubia. In the eighth century B.C., Nubian rulers invaded Egypt, conquering the country and ruling as the Egyptian Twenty-fifth Dynasty. This eight-week course will trace the relationship of Egypt and Nubia as these two major civilizations moved through cycles of trade, diplomacy, exploitation, and conquest. Class sessions will include visits to the award-winning Oriental Institute exhibit "Vanished Kingdoms of the Nile: The Rediscovery of Ancient Nubia."

INSTRUCTOR Frank Yurco is an Egyptologist who has taught numerous courses on Near Eastern history, culture, and language, both at the Oriental Institute and the Field Museum. This course will meet on Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, beginning **April 9, 1994 and continuing through May 28, 1994**.

Required texts:

Nubia: Corridor to Africa. 2nd ed. By William Y. Adams. Princeton: Allan Lane, 1984.

Ancient Egyptian Literature, Vols. I, III. By Miriam Lichtheim. University of California Press: Los Angeles, Berkeley, 1976, 1980.

COURSES

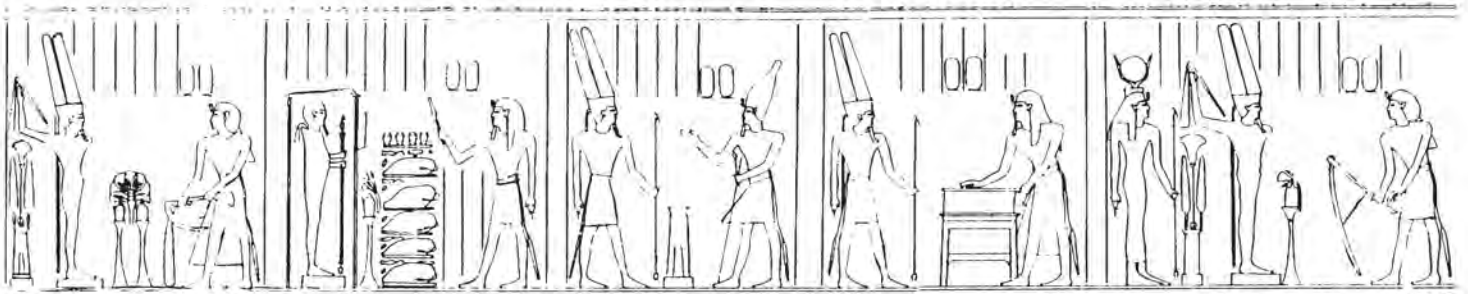
THE ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF MESOPOTAMIA

April 9–May 28, 1994

This course will cover the art and architecture of Mesopotamia from the time of the Sumerians to the Hellenistic period. Major sites and monuments will be investigated, with emphasis on public buildings such as palaces and temples. Less well-known sites will also be introduced, and will include discussions on domestic architecture, pottery, cylinder seals, and terra-cottas. The environment and geography will be stressed, highlighting the natural barriers that created cultural divisions, along with natural lines of communication that created routes for the dissemination of culture and art. Course sessions will include several visits to the Oriental Institute Museum's galleries for close-up examination of artifacts and in-depth explanation of their significance.

INSTRUCTOR Augusta McMahon holds a Ph.D. in Mesopotamian archaeology from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Over the past twelve years she has been a member of excavation teams in Iraq, including Nippur, Nineveh, and Dilbat, as well as in Turkey, Syria, and Yemen. This course will meet at the Oriental Institute on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon beginning **April 9, 1994 and continuing through May 28, 1994**. A list of suggested readings will be provided by the instructor at the first course session.

Tuition for Adult Education Courses is \$75 for Oriental Institute members; \$95 for non-members. Please contact the Museum Education Office at 312/702-9507 for additional information.



PLEASE ENROLL ME IN THE FOLLOWING ADULT EDUCATION COURSE(S)

- _____ *Magic and Medicine in Ancient Egypt*
 _____ *The History of Ancient Palestine*
 _____ *Egypt and the Ancient African Kingdoms of Nubia*
 _____ *The Art and Archaeology of Mesopotamia*

_____ I am a member and enclose \$75 for tuition for each course

_____ I am not a member and enclose \$95 for tuition for each course

_____ I would like to become a member of the Oriental Institute. Enclosed is \$35 for an individual membership, or \$45 for a family (two or more people) membership. (Please send a separate check for membership fee.)

Total enclosed \$ _____. Make check(s) payable to The Oriental Institute.

I prefer to pay by check, money order, credit card

MasterCard/Visa: _____
Account number

Expiration date Signature

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

Send to: **The Oriental Institute, Education Office, 1155 East 58th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637**

SPECIAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY EVENING GALLERY PROGRAMS

Spend a Wednesday evening at these informal gallery programs. Admission is free and reservations are not required.

April Program

Wednesday, April 27, 5:30 p.m. "Scribes and Secretaries of Ancient Egypt"

Even if you don't receive roses from your boss, you can celebrate Professional Secretaries' Day with a 45-minute gallery tour of the Oriental Institute Museum with Associate Professor **Lanny Bell**. Secretaries and others can learn about their 3,000 year old colleagues and all professional secretaries will receive a complimentary flower.

May Program

Wednesday, May 18, 6:30 p.m. "Cultivating Antiquity: Growing an Ancient Garden"

Add a touch of the ancient past to your garden this spring with a tour of the Oriental Institute Museum. Docents **Mary Shea** and **Rita Picken** will point out floral motifs and designs that decorate the ancient Near Eastern artifacts on view and discuss how flowering plants were used in ancient times. Handouts will tell you how you can create your own version of an ancient garden. All participants will receive a free packet of seeds.

EARTH DAY EVENTS

These events are offered in conjunction with the April 1994 celebration of Earth Day and are co-sponsored by Earth Day Illinois. Admission is free and reservations are not required.

Sunday, April 24, 1994, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. "Preserving Egypt's Past"

The 1994 Earth Day theme is "The Time Has Come," a belief that James Henry Breasted held as far back as 1924. That year, he founded the Epigraphic Survey to record the ancient inscriptions that erosion and vandalism were destroying in Egypt. Join us to view "Preserving Egypt's Past," the National Geographic film that documents the ways environmental change and population pressures have made the work of Chicago House epigraphers even more urgent today.

The film will be shown on the half-hour from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Following the film, the whole family can take part in a festival of crafts using recycled materials. Bring in a t-shirt and we'll decorate it with an ancient Egyptian design. Bring in a plastic milk jug and we'll help you turn it into an Egyptian mask. Make recycled paper with the same techniques used for making papyrus. All these activities are free and no reservations are required.

Friday, April 29, 1994, 6:30 p.m. "An Age-Old Problem: Competition for Water in the Ancient Near East"

Tony Wilkinson, Research Associate, Oriental Institute, looks to the ancient world to provide a new twist on an age-old problem—collection of and competition for water.

Both of these programs are part of the Earth Day Illinois Points for the Planet project. Contact the Museum Education Office to learn how attending Points for the Planet events throughout Chicago can make you eligible for free travel packages and other prizes.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SKETCHING IN THE GALLERIES

Wednesday evenings, 5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m., beginning April 6, 1994

With informal sketching sessions every Wednesday evening, the Oriental Institute Museum welcomes artists of all backgrounds to take advantage of the Museum's world-renowned collection of ancient artifacts.

From larger-than-life Assyrian reliefs to fanciful Persian pottery motifs to stylized Egyptian portraits, the Museum displays a myriad of objects and artistic styles from ancient times. Masterpieces of color, form, and line include:

- Deep blue and gold glazed brick from an ancient Babylonia processional way
- A sixteen-foot tall, human-headed winged bull carved from stone
- Line drawings on papyrus from the ancient Egyptian "Book of the Dead"

Chairs are provided; participants should bring their own materials. Admission is free and no reservations are required. This summer, the Museum will display work from the sketching sessions and host an opening reception for artists, family, and friends. **Call the Museum Education Office at 312/702-9507 for more information.**

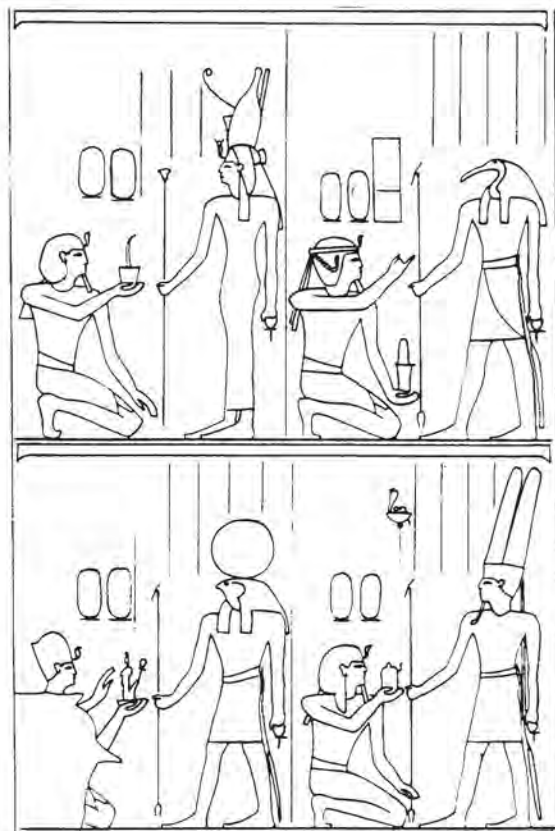
"A NIGHT ON THE NILE"—AN OVERNIGHT FOR FAMILIES AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM

From 6:15 p.m., Saturday, April 16, to 9 a.m., Sunday, April 17, 1994

Ever wonder what King Tut and the Oriental Institute mummies do at night? Come and find out at the first **Oriental Institute Museum Overnight**, a special event for families with children in grades 1–6. Take a flashlight tour that recreates the experience of visiting an ancient Egyptian tomb. Visit the remains of an ancient palace and have a chance to meet the King. The Overnight also include films, an archaeological "dig," craft projects for the whole family, and an appearance by folklorist Djalaal, who will lead a special session of stories, songs, and games from Egypt past and present. An evening snack will include treats a princess or pharaoh might have enjoyed, and the event will end with a continental breakfast in the morning. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Fee: \$30 per person for Oriental Institute members, \$35 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. **Contact the Museum Education Office at 312/702-9507 for a registration form or additional information.**

EGYPT IN CHICAGO MAY 14–15, 1994

Join us to explore "Egypt in Chicago" on a unique weekend trip to three of the city's major museums—the Oriental Institute, the Field Museum, and the newly installed ancient art collection at the Art Institute. Meet curators and exhibit planners, get an insider's view of each collection, and enjoy a continental breakfast and lunch in a very special setting! Watch for a mailing with date and details on a trip you won't want to miss.



NEWS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

LEGACY CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

We are pleased to announce a number of recent gifts to the Legacy Campaign for the climate control and renovation project. Among pledges at the naming level are those of Albert and Cissy Haas and Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Regnery. Recent outright gifts at the space-naming level include those from the estate of Annette Klein; from Maurice D. and Lois M. Schwartz; and from an anonymous donor. Thanks to all our generous donors, gifts, pledges and bequest intentions now total 27% of our \$10.1 million goal.

If you would like information on planning a gift to the Legacy Campaign, please contact Cynthia Echols at 312/702-9513.

JAMES HENRY BREASTED SOCIETY NEWS

The Oriental Institute would like to welcome Mr. and Mrs. George Eden, Mr. and Mrs. David Ray, and the Reverend John Sevick as new members of the Society. They join an active and dedicated group of upper level members whose generosity helps provide unrestricted annual funds for Oriental Institute research projects. We are also pleased to welcome back renewing Society members Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Brown, Joan and Homer Rosenberg, the Honorable George P. Shultz, and Mrs. Theodore D. Tieken.

Carrying forward both the celebratory and informative spirit of our November James Henry Breasted Society dinner in the Research Archives, Barbara and Philip Rollhaus will host an April event at their home, featuring a presentation on the Medinet Habu notebooks by Assistant Curator Emily Teeter.

If you would like more information on the privileges of membership in the James Henry Breasted Society, please contact the Development Office at 312/702-9513.

Guests at the James Henry Breasted Society dinner in November included (from left): David Maher, University of Chicago President Hugo Sonnenschein, Jill Carlotta Maher, James Alexander, and Oriental Institute Director William M. Sumner

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

The summer 1993 issue of *News & Notes* contained a request for the donation of old computer and other electronic equipment that members might be upgrading or replacing, including color televisions, VCR machines, CD-ROM equipment, and either IBM or Macintosh computers.

The response has been good. The Oriental Institute has received two donations: a 26" NAD color television from Thomas C. Heagy of Chicago, and an Apple Macintosh IIcx computer with an Apple color monitor and an external hard disk from Dr. Henry D. Slosser of Altadena, California.

Both of these donations will be combined to form the core of a new multimedia workstation for the Research Archives, which will be used by faculty, staff, and students to access the growing number of pertinent reference materials distributed on CD-ROM, such as the Thesaurus Linguae Graecae, Duke Data Bank of Documentary Papyri, Perseus: Interactive Sources and Studies on Ancient Greece, Judaic Classics Library, and Packard Humanities Institute Database of Biblical and Documentary Sources.

We are grateful for these generous gifts, and encourage others to consider donating their used computer and electronic equipment.

For more information, please contact John Sanders, Head of the Oriental Institute Computer Laboratory, at 312/702-0989.



MEMBERS' TRAVEL PROGRAM

EGYPT IN CHICAGO

MAY 14–15, 1994

Join us to explore "Egypt in Chicago" on a unique weekend trip to three of the city's major museums—the Oriental Institute, the Field Museum, and the newly installed ancient art collection at the Art Institute. Meet curators and exhibit planners, get an insider's view of each collection, and enjoy a continental breakfast and lunch in a very special setting! Watch for a mailing with details on a trip you won't want to miss.

ANCIENT TREASURES OF JORDAN AND ISRAEL

May 24–June 9, 1994

Designed for the informed traveler, this program offers an insider's view of the archaeology and history of the ancient Near East. You will see such places as Aqaba, where a hoard of gold coins was recently uncovered; the great excavations at ancient Megiddo (biblical Armageddon); and Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Part of what makes this trip so special is your guide, **Timothy P. Harrison**, currently a Ph.D. candidate in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. An experienced instructor of Oriental Institute Adult Education courses, he has participated in and led numerous field trips and tours in Israel and Jordan, including study trips to all of the sites on your itinerary. The tour will include Aqaba, Amman, Jerash, Petra, Jerusalem, Qumran, Megiddo, Caesarea, Haifa, and Tel Aviv.

Cost: \$4,995 per person, double occupancy, including international air fare.

Call **Academic Travel Abroad** at 800/556-7896 for itinerary and reservations.

INCENSE ROUTES OF ARABIA: OMAN, YEMEN, AND BAHRAIN

October 31–November 20, 1994

In ancient times, the lands of Oman, Yemen, and Bahrain were part of a trade system which linked Mesopotamia, the Nile Valley, and even the Far East with Europe. Through these Arabian lands—known then as the lands of Magan, Dilmun, and Saba (Sheba)—came the precious incense that fueled funerary pyres and braziers before the gods. The Three Wise Men bore Arabian products among their gifts and, in antiquity, the location of the great fields of frankincense were closely guarded. Cut off geographically and by inward-looking rulers, Arabia is still one of the last unexplored areas of the world.

The first departure of this once-in-a-lifetime trip sold out within a month, but some spaces are still available on the second departure for Oman, Yemen, and Bahrain from October 31 to November 20, 1994. **Emily Teeter**, Ph.D., Assistant Curator of the Oriental Institute Museum, an experienced leader of trips to Arabia, will be your guide on this program which includes Muscat, Manamah, Sana'a, Marib, and the Wadi Hadramaut.

Cost: \$5,950 per person, exclusive of international airfare.

Call **Zegrahm Expeditions** at 800/628-8747 for itinerary and reservations.

THANKSGIVING GETAWAY TO PARIS AND BERLIN

November 20–December 1, 1994

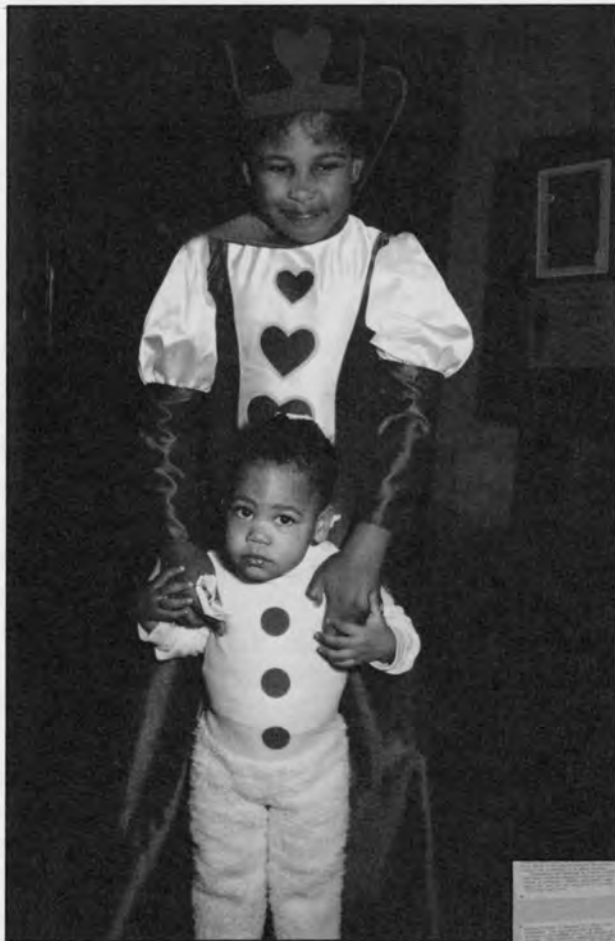
Join Oriental Institute Museum Curator **Karen L. Wilson**, Ph.D., on a unique study trip to the great museums of Paris and Berlin. Highlights of the program will include the new *Cour de Khorsabad* at the Louvre, where you can see the cast of our famous winged bull in an installation that recreates the original courtyard of the Palace of Sargon II, and the Egyptian Museum in the former East Berlin, from which we have recently recovered the "lost" notebooks of the Oriental Institute excavations at Medinet Habu. See future issues of *News & Notes* for more details on this exciting trip.

The Membership Office, 312/702-1677, will be happy to send you an itinerary for any of the trips listed above.

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

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MUMMY'S NIGHT

On October 27, 1993, nearly 300 people came to the Oriental Institute for the second annual Mummy's Night. The evening of festivities included gallery tours, highlights from "Abbott and Costello Meet the Mummy," a "Guess the Gummy Mummies" contest, gallery activities for children, refreshments and Halloween treats, and trick-or-treat bags of candy and toys to take home. Many children (and adults) came dressed for the occasion.

News & Notes

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All inquiries, comments, and
suggestions are welcome.

