

DEVELOPMENT

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Overview

For fiscal year 2004/2005, the Oriental Institute raised \$2,094,090 in non-federal private gifts and grants. The annual fund appeal raised \$113,415, an increase of 307% over the fiscal year 2003/2004 total. Among the notable gifts received were \$200,000 for the Museum, \$300,000 for the Chicago Hittite Dictionary, and a bequest of \$465,000 from the Paul J. Ehrenfest Estate. Additionally, the following foundations and corporations continued to support our programs: LaSalle Bank, Exelon, the Polk Bros. Foundation, The Amsted Corporation, the John Nuveen Company, and the University of Chicago's Women's Board. We thank all our generous supporters who made this financial success possible.

Visiting Committee

The Visiting Committee met twice this year. On November 17, Oriental Institute Museum Director Geoff Emberling gave the Visiting Committee a presentation on the installation of the exhibits of Empires on the Fertile Crescent: Ancient Assyria, Anatolia and Israel, followed by a preview tour of the East Wing galleries. Two new Visiting Committee members, Joan Armstrong and Anna White, joined us for this first meeting of the academic year 2004/2005.

Many members of the Visiting Committee attended the Director's Dinner for the opening of the East Wing galleries on January 13. Over 110 people were on hand to celebrate the completion of the Dr. Norman Solhkhah Family Assyrian Empire Gallery, the Henrietta Herbolsheimer, M.D. Syro-Anatolian Gallery, and the Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery. We were pleased to welcome Dr. Amihai Mazar of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as our guest speaker. Prof. Mazar's presentation, "From Canaan to Israel: Continuity and Change at Megiddo and Its Reign," lent an added dimension to the artifacts on display in the Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery.

The committee met again on April 20. Steve Camp, Associate Director of Administration and Finance, gave the members a presentation on the progress of the Robert F. Picken Family Nubian Gallery and Assistant Professor Steve Harvey spoke on recent developments at his excavation of Queen Tetisheri's pyramid at Abydos, Egypt.

Events

On June 9, the Institute was honored to host the inauguration of the Harris School of Public Policy's King Abdullah Lecture Series. The first speaker was King Abdullah II himself. His Majesty spoke on his hopes for the implementation of positive change in the Middle East. In addition to His Majesty, special guests included members of the Royal Hashemite Court, Mayor and Mrs. Daley, and President Don Michael Randel.

In the end, none of our work would be possible without the support of all our donors. We would like to thank all those who supported the Institute during fiscal year 2004/2005. It is only with your help that the Oriental Institute is able to continue to maintain its reputation for excellence in the study of the ancient Near East.