

IN MEMORIAM

Mary J. Grimshaw

This past June we were very saddened by the death of Mary J. Grimshaw, a long-time friend and supporter of the Oriental Institute. In 1988, at the suggestion of the late Joan Rosenberg (herself an early member of the docents), Mary began as a volunteer giving tours in the galleries. While on a tour of Yemen with Ray Tindel and Gretel Braidwood, the three became fast friends. Ray suggested that Mary move “downstairs” to assist him in Registration, a position that she faithfully performed for many years. Mary was an important force in the renovation of the new Museum galleries, stepping forward to be the first to name a gallery: The Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery. Mary also served on the Visiting Committee of the Oriental Institute from 1997 to 2009.

Mary’s fascination with all things Egyptian is legendary. For three years she was on the staff of the Epigraphic Survey, and life at Chicago House energized her. Back in Chicago, she attended weekly Egyptian hieroglyph tutorials at the Institute.

Born and raised in Hyde Park, Mary completed all her early education in the University of Chicago Schools: kindergarten, grammar school, and high school. She attended the University of Chicago, earning an A.B. in 1938, and the London School of Economics, leaving Britain a few months before the outbreak of World War II. Mary and her husband Joe, also a University of Chicago graduate, were long-time residents of Hyde Park until they moved to Wilmette. Her stories about Hyde Park before urban renewal were a constant source of fascination and amusement. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and the many friends that she leaves behind. Her keen intellect, friendship, and wonderful sense of humor will be missed by so many of us.
