

Welcome

Welcome to the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago, a showcase of the history, art, and archaeology of the ancient Middle East. The museum houses a major collection of antiquities from ancient Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, and Turkey. These lands were called the "Orient" at the turn of the last century, when University of Chicago archaeologists began unearthing many of the artifacts now on view in the museum. Interactive kiosks in the galleries supply additional information about the exhibits. After your visit, stop at the Suq (Arabic for "market") for an extensive selection of books about the ancient world and gifts from today's Middle East.



The Oriental Institute Museum
University of Chicago
1155 East 58th Street
Chicago IL 60637

Museum & Suq Gift Shop Hours

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Tue, Thu–Sat | 10:00am–6:00pm |
| Wed | 10:00am–8:30pm |
| Sun | 12:00pm–6:00pm |
| Mon | Closed |

Contact Us

Oriental Institute Administration
773.702.9514
Museum Office
773.702.9520
Gallery Tours & Programs
773.702.9507
Membership & Development
773.702.9513

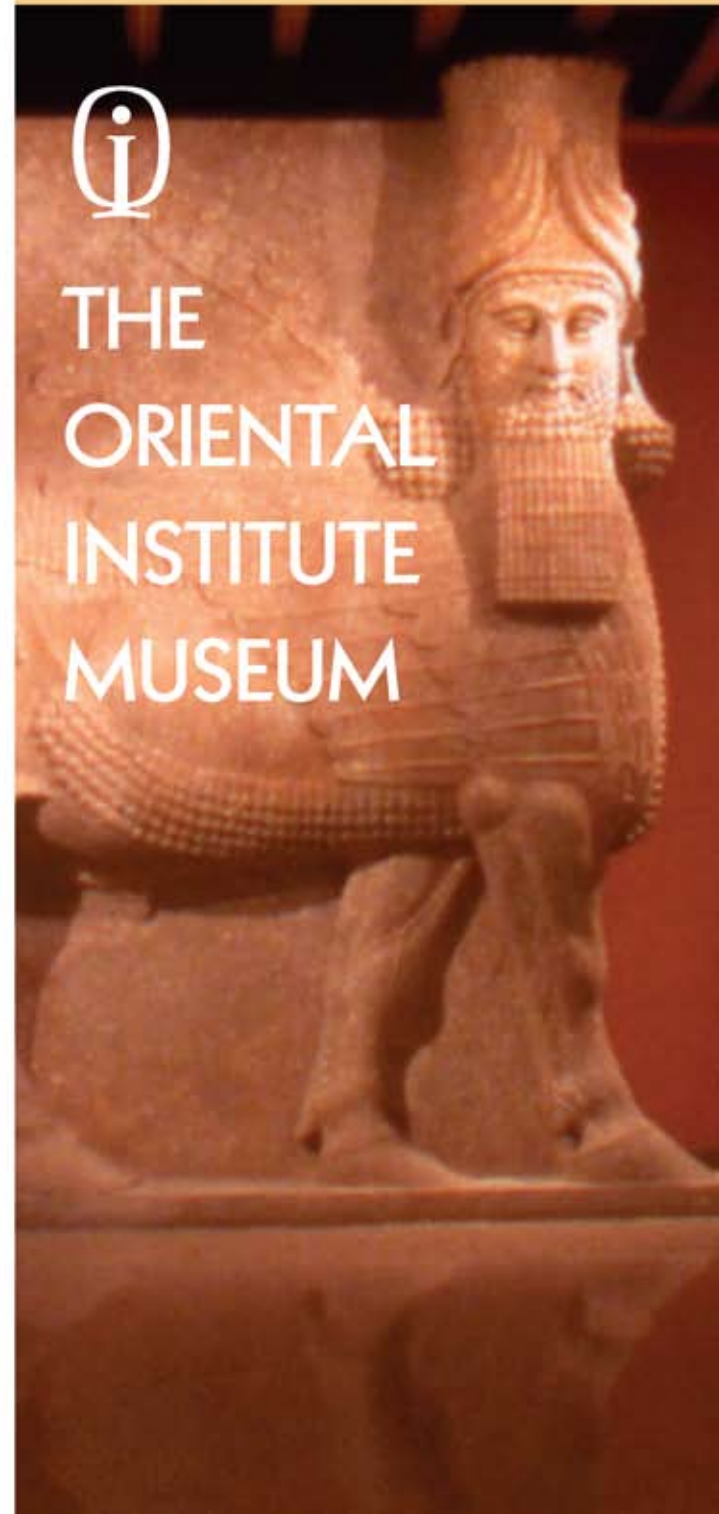
Visit Us on the Web

<http://oi.uchicago.edu>

Gallery Guide



THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM



THE GALLERIES

The museum has eight galleries, each devoted to a specific part of the ancient Near East

Ancient Mesopotamia (modern Iraq)

THE EDGAR AND DEBORAH JANNOTTA MESOPOTAMIAN GALLERY begins with an orientation to the archaeological and historical work of the Oriental Institute. The Robert and Linda Braidwood Prehistory Exhibit focuses on the work of two Oriental Institute archaeologists and their pioneering research on the world's earliest settlements in Iraq. The rest of the gallery traces Mesopotamian history from the time of the first cities (about 3500 B.C.) down to the seventh century A.D., and examines aspects of daily life. Of special interest is the group of worshiper figures of individuals before their god, and the collection of clay tablets with cuneiform inscriptions.

Ancient Assyria (modern Iraq)

THE YELDA KHORSABAD COURT, dominated by a massive human-headed winged bull, presents sculpture from the inner courtyard of the palace of Sargon II (721–705 B.C.).

THE DR. NORMAN SOLHIKHAH FAMILY ASSYRIAN EMPIRE GALLERY presents the history of the Assyrian Empire as it expanded from northern Iraq across Syria to the Mediterranean, to Israel and even Egypt. Carved stone reliefs show tribute being brought to the palace as well as scenes of hunting and feasting. Smaller objects illustrate how the Assyrians built their empire.

Anatolia (modern Turkey) and Syria

THE HENRIETTA HERBOLSHEIMER, M.D. SYRO-ANATOLIAN GALLERY displays objects from the central Anatolian kingdom of the Hittites and their successors, including massive sculptures from a ninth-century B.C. palace. Of special interest is the presentation of the world's earliest cast bronze figurines and the display of different scripts used in the region.

Ancient Israel

THE HAAS AND SCHWARTZ MEGIDDO GALLERY presents material from the Oriental Institute excavations at the site of Megiddo, the biblical Armageddon, including the famous Megiddo ivories that date to about 1300 B.C. Other important objects include a gold-covered statue of the god El and a fragment of one of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Ancient Egypt

THE JOSEPH AND MARY GRIMSHAW EGYPTIAN GALLERY documents Egyptian history and culture from about 4000 B.C. to the fourth century A.D. The first section of the gallery, dominated by the colossal statue of King Tutankhamun (1333–1323 B.C.), presents Egyptian chronology, writing, and kingship. The central part of the gallery is devoted to funerary beliefs and customs, and the final third of the gallery examines aspects of daily life. Important objects include human and animal mummies, and brightly painted sections of tomb walls.

Ancient Nubia (modern Egypt and Sudan)

THE ROBERT F. PICKEN FAMILY NUBIA GALLERY traces the history of Nubia from 3500 B.C. to the thirteenth century A.D. Artifacts include rare examples of archery equipment, one of the world's oldest saddles, a bronze statue of a Nubian king, and fancifully painted pottery. Most of the material was recovered from an area which is now flooded by the High Dam at Aswan.

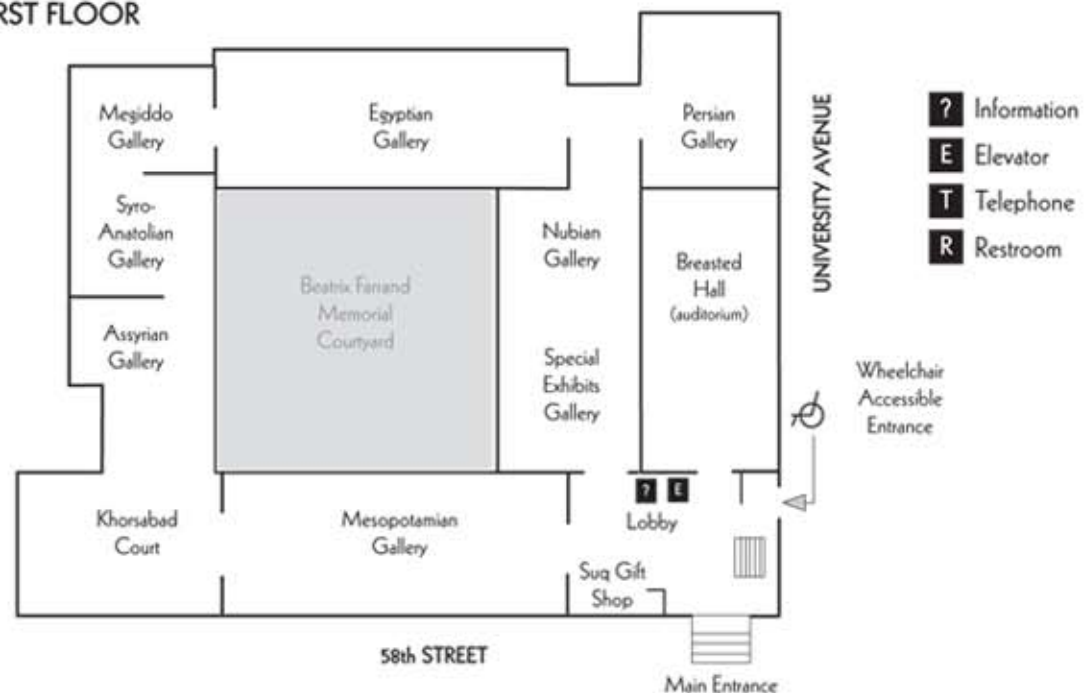
Ancient Persia (modern Iran)

THE ROBERT AND DEBORAH ALIBER PERSIAN GALLERY features material from the prehistoric and proto-historic cultures of southern Iran (6800–3000 B.C.), including ceramics, figurines, and seals and seal impressions. The gallery is dominated by the monumental stone head of a bull that once guarded the throne hall of Persian kings at the palace complex of Persepolis. The latest material in the gallery, from the site of Istakhr, dates to the early Islamic period (700–1000 A.D.).

Special Exhibits Gallery

THE MARSHALL AND DORIS HOLLEB FAMILY GALLERY FOR SPECIAL EXHIBITS hosts a frequently changing program of artifacts and photographs from the collection of the Oriental Institute and also from other museums and collections throughout the world.

FIRST FLOOR



TIMELINE OF THE ANCIENT MIDDLE EAST

10,000 B.C.

8000 B.C.

3000 B.C.

2000 B.C.

1000 B.C.

500 B.C.

FIRST CITIES, KINGS, WRITING

Late Bronze Age
trade

Iron Age

Alexander
the Great

MESOPOTAMIA
ASSYRIA



First farmers



Sumerian
cultures

Laws of
Hammurabi



Assyrian Empire

Babylonian Empire

ANATOLIA
SYRIA

Early bronze working



Assyrian trade
colonies in Anatolia



Hittite Empire

Neo-Hittite
kingdoms



ISRAEL
PALESTINE

Jericho

The Patriarchs



EGYPT



Pyramid Age



King Tut
King Rameses



NUBIA



Egypt conquers
Nubia

Nubia conquers
Egypt



PERSIA



THE GALLERIES



MESOPOTAMIA
(IRAQ)



KHORSABAD
(IRAQ)



ASSYRIA
(IRAQ)



SYRO-ANATOLIA
(TURKEY)



MEGIDDO
(ISRAEL/PALESTINE)



EGYPT

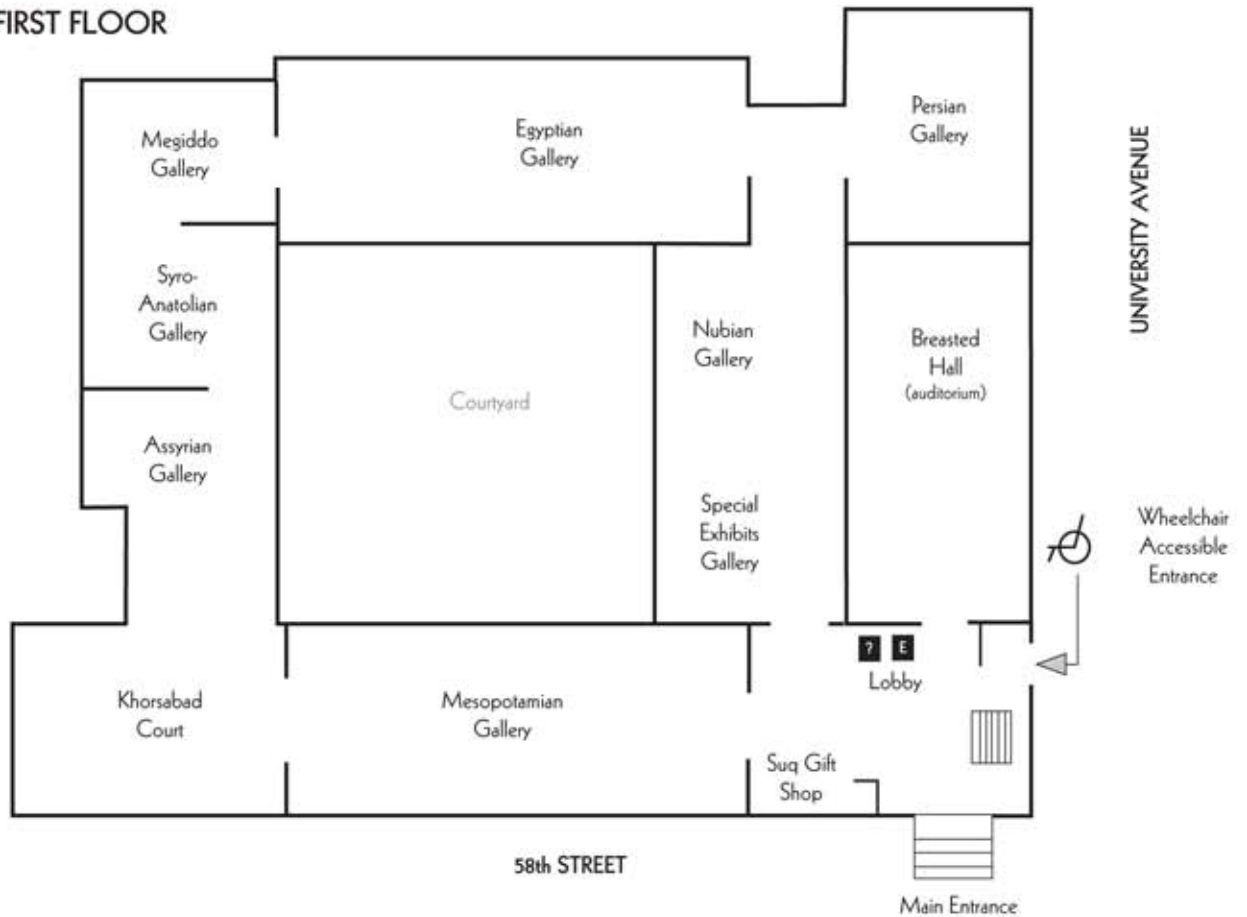


PERSIA
(IRAN)

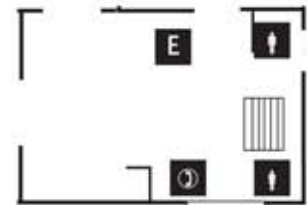


NUBIA
(SUDAN)

FIRST FLOOR



LOWER LEVEL



- ?** Information
- E** Elevator
- T** Telephone
- W** Women's Restroom
- M** Men's Restroom