

EMPIRES IN THE FERTILE CRESCENT

Ancient Assyria, Anatolia, and Israel

This winter, join us for free festivities celebrating the opening of our new exhibition, Empires in the Fertile Crescent.

OPENING WEEKEND

Celebrating Ancient Cultures

Saturday January 29 10am—6pm

1:00-1:30 Shircago, an capella group, whose named is based partly on the Hebrew word for song, will perform melodies based on historical Hebrew texts and contemporary arrangements of traditional songs.

2:00-2:30 The Assyrian Hakkeri Cultural Dance Group, whose named comes from a region of south-eastern Turkey, performs in costume accompanied by traditional music.

2:30-3:15 Special slide presentation by Geoff Emberling, Oriental Institute Museum Director, discussing the art and artifacts on view in the new galleries.

3:45-4:00 The Sanabel Palestinian Debka Group, committed to the preservation and presentation of debka, a traditional form of Palestinian dance.

4:15-4:45 Turkish musician Hakkan Berberoglu and Ozgur Sumer use the guitar and baglama to present traditional and contemporary music from Turkey.

The Magic Carpet: A Special Day of Activities for Families

Sunday January 30 12—6pm

Bring the whole family for a day of fun gallery activities! Tour the new gallery with docents on hand and enjoy self-guided treasure hunts throughout the day. From 1—5 pm, join us for a magic carpet ride to the ancient world. Enjoy shadow puppetry, have your name written in Anatolian hieroglyphs, meet artists demonstrating ancient techniques, and take part in hands-on activities with arts educators from the Spertus Museum. Take a musical journey to the past with Jutta & the Hi-Dukes, an acclaimed group of musicians and dancers whose interactive performances entertain audiences of all ages.

EDUCATORS' OPEN HOUSE

The Ancient Middle East: Exploring the World's First Global Cultures

Wednesday February 16 3:30—6:30pm CPDUs: 3

Join us for a free open house in conjunction with *Empires in the Fertile Crescent*. Learn how exquisite art and intriguing artifacts can become exciting teaching and learning tools, at the museum and as web-based resources for your classroom. Exhibit tours, curriculum materials, field trip information, and light refreshments are all part of this exciting event. At 4:30pm, don't miss a special slide lecture by Geoff Emberling, Oriental Institute Museum Director.

SYMPOSIUM

This program is co-sponsored by the Oriental Institute and the Graham School of General Studies and offers Teacher Recertification CPDUs from the Illinois State Board of Education.

Kingdoms of Ivory, Kingdoms of Iron: Opulence & Empire in the Ancient Near East

Saturday March 5 9am—4pm CPDUs: 6

Enter a remarkable era of internationalism ca. 2000—500bc, when ancient kingdoms from the Tigris to the Nile were bound together by trade in opulent goods and ancient lands were united by some of the world's earliest peace treaties. Even when peace failed, the clash of great armies led to the emergence of vast empires that linked peoples and places in ways that transformed the entire ancient Near East.

This major symposium is presented in conjunction with the opening of the landmark exhibition *Empires in the Fertile Crescent*. Join eminent scholars to learn the latest findings about ancient Anatolia, heartland of the great Hittite Empire and home to such sites as Troy of Homer's Iliad, and the realm of the legendary King Midas. Hear the most recent interpretations on ancient Assyria, which ruled a vast domain built on an unparalleled war machine. Finally, discover how Oriental Institute excavations at Megiddo—the Biblical Armageddon—have shown how this site in ancient Israel was a portal for products and ideas from ancient lands, including carved ivories that reveal artistic influences ranging from Egypt to Mycenaean Greece.

Presenters from the Oriental Institute include:

- **Gil Stein**, Oriental Institute Director and Professor of Mesopotamian and Anatolian Archaeology
- **David Schloen**, Associate Professor of Syro-Palestinian Archaeology
- **Theo van den Hout**, Professor of Hittitology & Editor of the Oriental Institute Hittite Dictionary
- **K. Aslihan Yener**, Associate Professor of Anatolian Archaeology

Guest presenters include:

- **Trevor Bryce**, Fellow of the Australian Humanities Academy and a leading scholar on Hittite history
- **Marion Feldman**, Assistant Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of California Berkeley
- **J. David Hawkins**, Professor of Anatolian Languages, Department of Languages and Culture, University of London

Program includes packet of materials, continental breakfast, reception, and private viewing of the exhibition. Optional box lunches are available on request. Pre-registration required.

Left, top to bottom: Column Base, Tell Tayinat; Bull Statuette, Central Anatolia, c.2300–200bc; Ivory Female Head, Megiddo, 13th century bc; Pitcher with Strainer, Alishar Huyuk, 1900–1750bc. Right: Game Piece, Megiddo, 13th century bc.