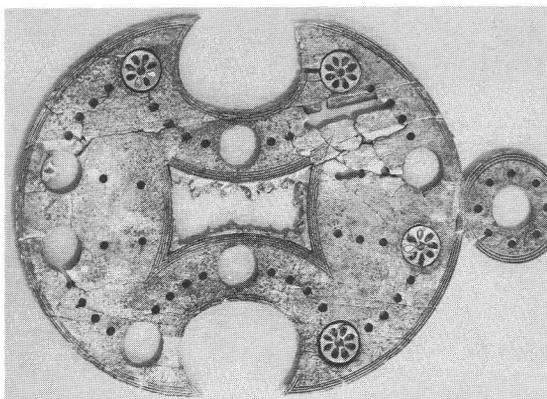


THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM

To achieve its purposes, the Oriental Institute needs to communicate the results of its work to others. One of the ways it does this is to exhibit in its Museum objects and works of art representing the successive civilizations of the ancient Near East. The exhibit includes a nucleus presented to The University of Chicago in 1896 by Mrs. Caroline F. Haskell in memory of her husband and originally housed in Haskell Hall. The field expeditions of the Institute eventually provided so much important new material that it now fills five large galleries of the Institute building, constructed in 1930 as the gift of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. These halls today exhibit an important collection of Near Eastern antiquities from Egypt, Nubia, Palestine, Syria, Anatolia, Assyria,

Babylonia, Sumer and ancient Persia, currently numbering some 70,000 objects.

Among the important items in the Museum



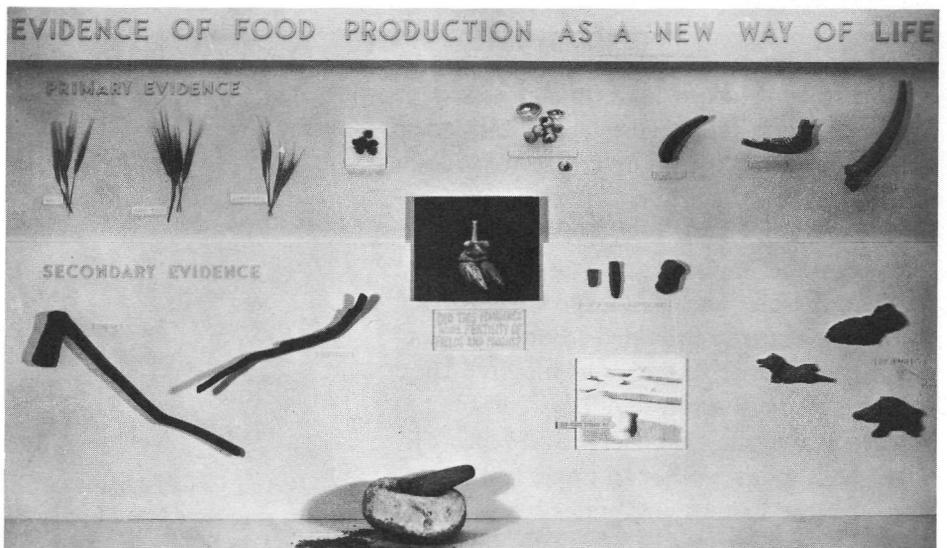
Ivory game board from Megiddo, Palestine, ca. 1350-1150 B.C.



Left, Alabaster statuette from the Shara Temple at Tell Agrab, Iraq. Right, fragment of a sunken relief from el-Amarna, Egypt, ca. 1350 B.C.

are the great Assyrian winged man-bull, one of the spectacular finds of the Khorsabad expedition; the colossal statue of King Tutankhamon, unearthed during the excavation of the temples of Medinet Habu; the decorative ivories found in the treasury of a ruler of Megiddo in Palestine; the votive statues and figurines, of gypsum and copper, found in the ruins of Sumerian temples at Tell Asmar and Khafajah; the models from Egyptian tombs which symbolize the extent of the services

needed to provide adequately for the dead in the afterlife; the cylinder seals that demonstrate so well the development of the glyptic art of Mesopotamia; figurines from Syria, the oldest cast copper known from that region; the articles of daily life from ancient Egypt; gold treasures of Syro-Hittite, Achaemenian, and Hellenistic times; Dead Sea Scroll fragments, cloth scroll wrappings and a scroll jar; bronzes from Luristan; the black diorite head of a massive bull from Persepolis; and the finest



Part of the Prehistoric Exhibit in the Oriental Institute.

collection of Nubian artifacts, ranging from 3200 B.C. to Meroitic times, ca. 450 B.C. to A.D. 240, outside of Egypt.

A permanent Prehistoric Exhibit was opened in May, 1968, in two alcoves of the Museum. This exhibit orients the viewer to the three great technological and economic stages in the human career and to the relative time span of each, and finally it focuses attention on the beginnings of the *second* stage as the subject matter of the exhibit.

The three stages are:

1. *The Industrial Stage*, in which we live, which began only several centuries ago.

2. *The Food-Producing Stage*, which had certainly come into being some nine thousand years ago (by 7000 B.C.) in the Near East. By 3500 B.C., in the Near East, on the basis of effective food-production, an urban, literate, civilized way of life had appeared.

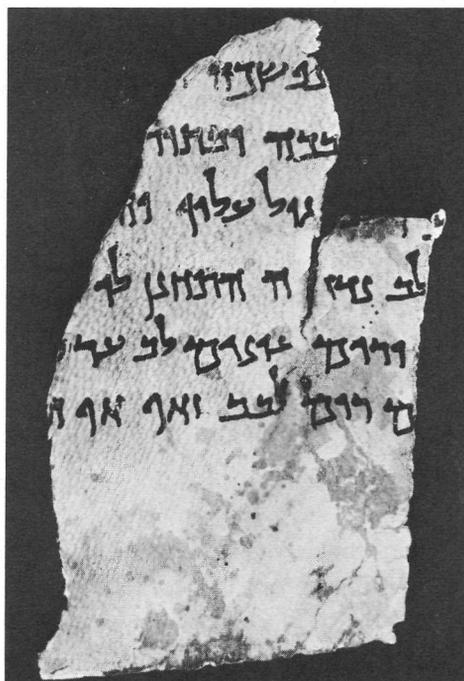
3. *The Food-Gathering Stage*, the vast 99 per cent of the human career which lay before food-production appeared, perhaps starting around 2,000,000 years ago.

Since the Museum acquires most of its objects from the Institute's excavations, its cavernous receiving rooms, laboratories, and storage vaults play an important part in its operation. Here the finds of the expeditions are organized for study, treated, classified, prepared for publication, and eventually stored for future reference. Certain classes of objects lending themselves to exhibition are mounted for Museum display. Other objects are assembled for purposes of instruction. Students and visiting scholars may obtain permission to use the study material.

The collections of the Institute also provide an instrument without parallel in the Midwest for service to education in the field of the ancient Near East at the college and pre-college level. Trained docents are available five days a week for guided tours of interested groups, children and adult. The volunteer guide program is also geared to the curriculum needs of the Chicago and suburban public and private schools. It is part of the Institute's long-range

planning to extend its services further to the schools of Chicago, its suburbs and outlying communities by making available slide lectures at the schools in preparation for visits to the Museum.

The Museum is open to the public daily, except Mondays and holidays, free of charge, from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and it has an average annual visitor attendance of over 60,000. A plan of the Museum, showing the organization of its halls and exhibits, appears on the inside front cover of this booklet. Post cards and slides of important objects on display, reproductions of ancient Near Eastern objects and jewelry from the Oriental Institute Museum as well as from other archeological collections, books on the archeology, art and history of the region, and literature bearing upon the Institute and the Museum are available in the Museum shop, the Suq, situated in the foyer of the Institute.



A Qumran scroll fragment. Exhortation to piety written in a characteristic Hebrew script, perhaps as early as the 1st century B.C. It reads: . . . thy soul . . . thy heart (?) and in the teaching (of) . . . He will rejoice concerning thee and . . . with mournful heart beseech Him . . . and haughtiness of eyes, heart . . . haughtiness of heart, great anger . . .