

The Volunteer Guide Program

Peggy Grant The Volunteer Guide Program enjoyed a varied and interesting year from September 1978 through May 1979.

The cornerstone of the Museum docent program is the responsibility shown by each captain for his or her day. Each captain finds out how many tours there are to be, introduces the group to the Oriental Institute, and divides it up among the docents on duty for the tour of the galleries. In addition the captain helps and supervises the work of new docents, and often has to help docents find substitutes when needed. These remarkable people are:

Barbara Sansone (Tuesday A.M.)	Hilde Zurne and Elizabeth Spiegel (Thursday P.M.)
Terry Friedman (Tuesday P.M.)	Myrette Katz (Friday A.M.)
Jane Imberman (Wednesday A.M.)	Milton Droege (Friday P.M.)
Muriel Nerad (Wednesday P.M.)	Calla Burhoe (Saturday)
Joan Barghusen (Thursday A.M.)	Teresa Hintzke and Albert Haas (Sunday)

Joan Barghusen, Co-Chairman and Educational Consultant, developed the Museum Highlights sheet now available to Museum visitors, and wrote a series of gallery activity sheets which will be used by children and families visiting the galleries. She wrote a helpful report on the educational activities at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. Last year Gerry Enck and Joan Barghusen had developed the Mesopotamian Slide Show, which groups using the museum for tours may see; and this year Joan is finishing an expanded slide talk on Egypt, which we have been using since March.

She is in the process of preparing the background notes for this slide talk.

Mary Ann Wayne, Co-Chairman and Librarian, has supervised the Docent Library by cataloguing all the books, arranging for a reserve shelf during the training programs, and selecting books to be purchased. The Volunteer Guide Program benefited from a gift of \$125.00 from the Oriental Institute for the purchase of books.

Lilian Cropsey, Docent Archivist, has taken on the Herculean task of creating a file for the Docent Office of the objects in the Museum and noting publications in which they are mentioned. With the help and cooperation of Anita Ghaemi, Registrar, she has spent many hours in the basement files and in the Archives doing the basic research on this project. Barbara Frey, Mimi Futransky, and Janet Helman have helped on this project.

Myrette Katz, Chairman of Special Events, organized a Memorial Day weekend tour to the New Orleans Museum of Art to see the Nubian Show titled "Africa in Antiquity." It was a wondrous weekend for all who were able to go. She has helped in many other ways with suggestions and advice.

Elda Maynard, Editor of the Docent Digest, has kept us on the edge of our chairs with her story of Breasted and the Oriental Institute told in installments through the year. We are deeply indebted to her for her lively editorship of the Docent Digest, a most important tool in keeping us informed and stimulated.

Klaus Baer, Jill Maher, and Carolyn Livingood agreed to serve on an informal advisory committee to the Docent Program. I am grateful to them for their wise counsel. Not only did they help plan the Docent Training Courses, but they were the foundation upon which the Monday course was built. Professor Baer gave an afternoon's talk covering Egyptian history, and another afternoon introduced the new docents to the Egyptian writing system and Egyptian concepts of art. Jill and Carolyn spent more than fifteen hours in the galleries over the eight-week period and many more hours preparing their presentations. They explained Museum objects and put them into historical and artistic context.

The new docents as well as the old docents who followed the course benefitted from new knowledge and insight.

The Monday Docent training course included lectures by Judith Franke, Professors Klaus Baer, John Brinkman, Helene Kantor, Erica Reiner, and Edward Wente. David Nasgowitz talked to us about the history of Syria-Palestine. Professor Kantor gave us two Mondays, one on Mesopotamian art and one on the history and art of Iran. We are deeply grateful to these scholars who have given of their time and their knowledge so generously.

A Saturday docent training program, designed for working people who wished to volunteer their time to the Museum on weekends, was instituted. The docents in training were allowed to attend the Members' courses given by Peter Lacovara on Egyptian archeology and by Carol Meyer on Mesopotamian archeology; they were also able to hear six illuminating gallery talks by Judith Franke, who covered the Assyrian and Mesopotamian collections. In addition, Mary Ann Wayne and Marianne Ford introduced the class to the Egyptian gallery, Marianne Ford gave a presentation in the Iranian gallery, and Calla Burhoe lectured on Palestine and explained the pottery sequence. Saturday docents Bette Miller and Shirley Jean Fisher also helped train the Saturday docent class.

A monthly series of Monday meetings with programs of interest to docents began with a gala luncheon at the Quadrangle Club given by the Museum Curator, John Carswell, to inaugurate the closer relationship of the Volunteer office and the Museum office. All volunteers were honored, and special thanks were given to the retiring chairman of the volunteers, Jill Maher. Other Monday programs featured Professor Helene Kantor in an art history gallery talk, Ms. Barbara Reque on theory of museum education, Milton Droege on Samarkand, Professor Lawrence Stager on the Palestinian gallery pottery sequence, Joan Rosenberg on her experiences in China, Barbara Hall on museum conservation with a tour of her laboratory, Jill Maher on digging in Iraq, David Nasgowitz on religion and religious ideas found in the galleries, and Bud Haas on Nubia with a preview of the Nubian show. There were no Monday programs

during April and May because of the training program, but the docents sponsored a lecture by Bruce Williams on Nubia given on Sunday afternoon, May 6.

Special mention must be made of Eleanor Swift, who, in addition to her regular selling session in the Suq, gives many hours behind the scenes. Frances Studebaker also gives an extra day in the office as well as selling on a regular basis.

We take pleasure in presenting the new docents trained in the spring of 1979: Joan Bessey, Luciano Franchi di Alfaro III, Anita Greenberg, Janet Helman, Blanche Hirsch, Marsha Holden, Jean Icenogle, Elsie Loeb, Jack Schwartz, Lexie Spurlock, Elaine Whitman, and Neal Whitman.

In addition to these new docents, several regularly scheduled Suq docents and other Museum volunteers registered for the courses: Leonard Byman, Carol Green, Diana Grodzins, Mary Irons, Florence Teegarden, and Bobbette Teitelman.

To summarize our activities during the period from September 1978 through May 1979, forty-five regular and twelve part-time Museum docents took 16,725 people on tours through the Museum galleries. And during this same period, seventeen regular and seven part-time Suq docents sold postcards, jewelry, books, and sundries to these visitors. In addition, the Museum docents presented forty slide shows, equally divided between Egypt and Mesopotamia.

The Chairman and all the volunteers, whether regularly scheduled or willing to be on call when needed, owe a debt of gratitude to the Curator, John Carswell, for his encouragement and support, and to the friendly help from all the Museum staff: to Mr. Ray Tindel and Mr. Honorio Torres, who let us get in their way in the galleries on Mondays for the docent programs and training sessions; to David Nasgowitz, who gave us access to slides, carousels, and keys, as well as answering questions on many subjects; to Ronnie Burbank, Archivist; and to the indispensable Myrna Simon, who schedules our tours, coordinates the slide shows, and, as a former docent, is understanding and patient with us all.

<i>Museum</i>	Dorothy Angelos	Myrette Katz
<i>Docents</i>	Roberta Anghis	Mary Jo Khuri
<i>Regularly</i>	Joan Barghusen	Kathryn Kimball
<i>Scheduled</i>	Teddy Buddington	Jill Maher
	Calla Burhoe	Bette Miller
	Lilian Cropsey	Muriel Nerad
	Mary D'Ouille	Gloria Orwin
	Milton Droege	Kitty Picken
	Sylvia Easton	Rita Picken
	Gerry Enck	Jo Anne Putz
	Laurie Fish	Laura Reinstein
	Shirley Jean Fisher	Priscilla Rocca
	Marianne Ford	Joan Rosenberg
	Barbara Frey	Janet Russell
	Terry Friedman	Marion Salmon
	Mimi Futransky	Barbara Sansone
	Stacey Greenberger	Elizabeth Spiegel
	Sally Grunsfeld	Oliver Szilagi
	Cissy Haas	Rosalinde Vorne
	Albert Haas	Mary Ann Wayne
	Teresa Hintzke	Susan Westfall
	Janet Hurwich	Hilde Zurne
	Jane Imberman	
<i>Museum</i>	Betty Baum	Alice Irwin
<i>Docents</i>	Mary Christopher	Jan Jentes
<i>Part Time</i>	Ida DePencier	Suzanne Krill
	Lita Gaber	Alice Mulberry
	Nancy Gerson	Doris Shayne
	Peggy Grant	Malinda Winans
<i>Oriental</i>	Gretel Dreyfuss	Florence Ovardia
<i>Institute</i>	Gerry Enck	Alice Ryerson
<i>and Museum</i>	Kay Ginther	Bobette Teitelman
<i>Volunteers</i>	Blanche Hirsch	Betty Ticken
	Carolyn Livingood	Barbara Watson
	Jill Maher	Mary Ann Wayne
	Elda Maynard	Peggy Wick
	Lisa Margolin	