

P E O P L E


 Membership Program

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The Oriental Institute's Membership program is designed to help our members keep abreast of growing knowledge about the development of human civilization in the ancient Near East. Apart from much informal visiting and communication, this is done through our newsletter, annual report, the Membership lecture series, and our non-credit classes.

The Opening Lecture in October of 1982 was "Horses on the Citadel: A Bronze Breastplate and the Archaeology of Hasanlu." It was presented in Mandel Hall by Irene Winter of the University of Pennsylvania and was followed by a gala reception in the Museum. In November Kent Flannery spoke on "Jarmo's Legacy: The Worldwide Search for Food Production" in conjunction with the opening of the Museum's new prehistory exhibit. He was followed in December by "Egypt and the Red Sea Trade" by Janet H. Johnson and Donald Whitcomb. The first lecture in 1983 was a March presentation by Norman Golb on "The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Approach to the Study of Their Origins." In early April C. E. Bosworth told us about "The Medieval Underworld" under joint Membership-Museum sponsorship. Later in April we heard about "Tel ed-Der: A Babylonian City 4000 Years Ago" from Hermann Gasche. May brought us a lecture by G. W. Bowersock on "Roman Arabia" and the Membership lecture series ended on June 1st with a talk on "Chicago House and the Rescue of Ancient Theban Monuments" by Lanny D. Bell. Each of these lectures was followed by a small reception in the Egyptian Hall to allow the audience to meet the speaker.

Our courses by mail proved popular again this year. We had three full sections on introductory hieroglyphs and one section on advanced hieroglyphs. Our cassette tape course on The Life of the Common Man in Ancient Egypt has been very well received. The traditional Saturday morning classes in the Institute offered members, in addition to the foregoing themes, a chance to study The Sea Peoples; Archaeological

Chemistry; Sheba and Spice — Ancient South Arabia; Ebla in the Syro-Canaanite World; and From Jericho to Gaugamela — An Introduction to the Archaeology and History of the Ancient Near East. This last was used also by the Volunteer Office as a Docent training course.

Janet Johnson and Donald Whitcomb led an enthusiastic group of sixteen members on our annual tour to Egypt in late February. Everyone had a wonderful time, with a special highlight being a gala reception at Chicago House in Luxor.

The annual dinner given by our Visiting Committee took place on May 9th this year. It celebrated the launching of Professor Lawrence E. Stager's new five-year expedition to Harran. A large group of people convened for cocktails and dinner in the Museum followed by a short talk in Breasted Hall by Mr. Stager. The evening closed with a brief recital of Turkish music on the saz (a traditional Turkish lute).

The membership files and records have been placed on a computer this year. This should speed up mailings and renewal notices but we are determined that members will still remain people and not become numbers.

I'll close my report with some notes on people. On Halloween Malinda Winans arranged and executed one of the most successful Members' Days ever, in addition to her other labors. The *News and Notes*, ably edited by Elda Maynard, has grown in scope and now includes all announcements of lectures, tours and other events. Our volunteer, Helen Glennon, has cheerfully performed the tedious task of getting out the renewal notices during the past year. Finally, we have continued to depend, as always, on the invaluable advice of Albert Haas.