George Joseph

George was a vital and interesting man, who was a wonderful friend to the Oriental Institute. A passionate Egyptophile and truly committed to the mission of the Oriental Institute, he served on the Executive Committee for the Legacy Campaign, which raised funds for the climate control project. He was a member of the Visiting Committee for almost seven years and resigned only when his health no longer allowed him to travel from his home in Oregon.

George’s passion for Egyptology was not limited to service to the Oriental Institute. He was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the Ancient Egypt Studies Association (AESA), bringing lecturers including the Oriental Institute’s Emily Teeter, T. G. H. James of the British Museum, and Lanny Bell, former Director of Chicago House, to Oregon. I had the privilege of being a guest in the home of the Josephs when I spoke to the association.

His distinguished legal career is an additional tribute to George’s character. He earned his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School and his L.L.M from New York University. He taught law at several schools, worked in private practice, and served as Chief Judge of the Oregon Court of Appeals from 1981 until 1992.

George died in Portland on Monday, June 23, 2003, of respiratory failure following pneumonia. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, their five children, thirteen grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

George was a good friend to all of us at the Institute, and he is missed.

Carlotta Maher