The museum was an extremely lively place in 2006/2007, the first full year since our permanent galleries have been open. Our special exhibit program presented no less than four different exhibits. The Education Department developed outstanding activities and programs for many different audiences. We have never been so busy assisting research projects, cataloging and digitizing the collection, and improving storage conditions. And the museum galleries have hosted a wide variety of dinners and events. The vitality of the museum is not simply the result of having beautiful gallery spaces or a magnificent collection, however — it is due to the remarkable dedication and knowledge of the museum staff.

The Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery hosted a wide range of exhibits that illustrate some of the potential of our special exhibit program to broaden the appeal of the museum. We displayed beautiful photographs documenting the discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb; early twentieth century hand-embroidered dresses from Palestine; Middle School students’ art and writing inspired by ancient Nubia; and ceramics from medieval Persia that are some of our most beautiful sherds. We are developing a very high standard for excellence in display due to the outstanding eye and skillful hands of Erik Lindahl and his Prep Shop staff and our graphic designer, Dianne Hanau-Strain of Hanau-Strain Associates.

These exhibits provided opportunities for Oriental Institute faculty, research associates, and staff to present their work, both in the exhibits themselves and in the catalogs we have produced for the exhibits, and we hope to continue these collaborations in the future. The exhibits have presented opportunities for a wide range of education programs and activities, which have enriched the exhibits beyond the displays themselves. And it must be said that these exhibits kept the museum staff extremely busy.

Registration and Archives have been extremely busy this year, particularly with three active projects to publish Amuq sites excavated in the 1930s, but also with a wide range of other important research noted below. Between our special exhibits program and our international reputation, we have also had a high volume of incoming and outgoing loans that have taken a remarkable amount of time. It is a credit to the importance of these positions for the research role of the museum that Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein approved two new positions in these areas this year: an Archives Assistant, Margaret Schröder, and an Assistant Registrar, a position we hope to fill in the coming year.

It is difficult to summarize the contributions of the Education Department and Volunteer Program in just a few lines because they are both so active, and highlighting one program or another would simply leave others out. I can only recommend their descriptions below.
One exciting collaboration across the museum that began last year was with the MAPSS program at the University. This is a one-year MA program in which Ray Fogelson and Morris Fred offer a two-quarter course on the Anthropology of Museums. The Oriental Institute has been the subject of their ethnographic project as well as a final exam paper, and we have been fortunate this past year to have the help of no less than seven students from this program as interns and work-study students in Special Exhibits, Publicity (and Membership), Education, and Archives. These students contributed greatly to many aspects of work in the museum over the past year, and we are hopeful that this collaboration with the MAPSS program will continue in years to come.

The attendance numbers were not as good as they have been in previous years. Attendance was down slightly — the increased attendance from the presence of the Tut exhibit at The Field Museum did not last much beyond its opening months in May and June. Contributions in our “cash box” in the lobby were down 6%.

On the positive side, activities of the museum were supported by a wide range of grants in this past year. Education projects were funded by the Polk Bros. Foundation, Fry Foundation, Joyce Foundation, and by a major two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities that we received due to the vision and grant-writing skills of Wendy Ennes. Conservation had a record-breaking year, receiving grants from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment of the Humanities, and the University of Chicago Women’s Board. Details of these grant-funded projects can be found below.

We have had quite a few changes in staff over the past year.

Ray Tindel retired as Registrar after twenty-one years, having left Registration in excellent shape to continue cataloging the collection in the database he had set up. Ray’s contributions to the museum have been so important and so wide-ranging that it is no exaggeration to say, as Ray did at the retirement symposium organized by Gil Stein, that it had become “his” museum. We will all miss Ray’s daily presence as a colleague and friend and are glad that he is able to continue volunteering for the next year or two.

Helen McDonald has eased some of our concerns over Ray’s departure as she has mastered the work of Registration since her arrival two years ago. She moved into Ray’s position as Registrar on July 1.

The position of Reinstallation Coordinator for the permanent galleries ended with the opening of the Nubia Gallery in February 2005, and although we were able to find funds to keep Markus Dohner for months after that, this was not a permanent position. I am happy to report that Markus is now working at the Art Institute.

Erik Lindahl has now moved into the senior position in the Prep Shop and Design. We are fortunate to have his many contributions to exhibits and to the museum and the Oriental Institute more broadly.

Margaret Schröeder has moved from her position at the lobby desk to Archives Assistant, where she is thriving.

And we are pleased to welcome Adam Lubin as the Head of Security and Visitor Services.
It is a pleasure to thank, first of all, everyone on the museum staff for our successes this past year. Gil Stein has been consistently energetic, helpful, and supportive of museum programs. Tom Urban and Leslie Schramer in Publications have been nothing short of remarkable in their ability to produce well-designed and carefully edited catalogs for special exhibits on tight deadlines. Bill Harms in the University News Office has helped greatly with publicity for a wide range of museum (and Institute) activities. Candace Walters in the University Office of Risk Management has been extremely helpful with all our loans, some of which have been complicated indeed. Morrie Fred, Lecturer on museum studies in the MAPSS program and former Director of the Spertus Museum, has been actively interested in our museum at many levels and has been a source of advice and inspiration. And last, but not least, I would like to thank Dianne Hanau-Strain for her continuing work as exhibit designer and graphic designer for the museum.

The Year to Come

We are looking forward to next year in the museum. We plan to have two exciting special exhibits. The first, opening in November, will display European maps of the Ottoman world; the second, opening in April, will present the ongoing looting of archaeological sites in Iraq. We are working on a single-volume guide to the galleries as well as six volumes that will present highlights of the museum collection — at present we have manuscripts for Mesopotamia and Megiddo, with active work on Nubia and Persia. We are hoping to inaugurate audioguide tours. We are working to put our galleries online so that the objects and information in them is widely available. We are developing a rotating set of posters for the “Star Chamber” — the small hallway between Egypt, Persia, and Nubia — that will present current Oriental Institute research. We are also developing a simulated dig based on the model of the Spertus Museum’s Artifact Center (which itself was designed in consultation with Oriental Institute archaeologist Doug Esse). These projects all serve to present the collection and research of the Oriental Institute to the public to encourage ongoing interest and support for our work.

It will also be a busy year behind the scenes, with active work cataloging and digitizing the collections, installing new state-of-the-art storage cabinets and rehousing objects, and facilitating a wide range of research projects. Particularly exciting will be the intensive conservation training programs of conservators from the Middle East.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

Emily Teeter

The first show of the period covered by this report was Wonderful Things: The Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun: The Harry Burton Photographs (see further details in the 2005–2006 Annual Report, p. 132). This exhibit, which was warmly received, closed October 9.

Our next exhibit, Embroidering Identities: A Century of Palestinian Clothing ran from November 11, 2006, to March 25, 2007, and was curated by Dr. Iman Saca, Research Associate of the Oriental Institute and Assistant Professor of Anthropology at St. Xavier University.
This exhibit illustrated some of the challenges that special exhibits pose to museum staff. A fundamental part of the look of the show was how the garments were to be exhibited. We toyed with all sorts of possibilities, from department store mannequins to simple rods. Finally Museum Preparator Erik Lindahl, working with the Conservation Department, devised an ingenious and flexible series of armatures that Laura and her staff padded and dressed. This was also our first foray into international loans. It was a true trial by fire that, in the end, was successful. As originally conceived, the exhibit was to be made up of garments from our collection augmented by a significant number of others from the Palestine Heritage Center in Bethlehem. As the political situation in the West Bank deteriorated, we found ourselves in a maze of complications, particularly moving and insuring the loan materials from Bethlehem to Jerusalem and then to Chicago, fearing that it might get stuck in customs leaving the West Bank. Registrar Helen McDonald was on a very sharp learning curve investigating insurance and shipping, aided by the ever-helpful Candace Walters in the University’s Office of Risk Management. At the darkest, it looked as if we would receive no additional materials, but through team effort and coordination, shortly before the opening, a shipment of key garments arrived.

The exhibit had a very different look for us. Not only were we showing garments that were only a century old, but the delicacy of the fabrics necessitated low light levels. Erik Lindahl achieved a safe level of attractive lighting after experimenting with various types of bulbs and shielding. The exhibit also necessitated additional security because the garments were on pedestals with no solid barriers to protect them from curious visitors.

The visitor comment book recorded a wide variety of reactions, ranging from the prosaic: “Beauty for my eyes; cultural information for my mind; appreciation for my heart”; to comments from those with a special interest: “As a Palestinian-American 1st generation, it’s strengthening to see and learn about the various regional differences in clothing”; and “As a Palestinian, I was exposed to different aspects of my culture unknown to me. Thank you for your exhibit.” Other comments made us very proud: “Excellent exhibit! The explanations were concise and informative. Very interesting to see the parts of other cultures (like coins from Russia and France) which were part of clothing,” while a few contained complaints that the exhibit had a political or cultural agenda (which we assiduously tried to avoid). Other comments had us scratching our heads (“reminds me of people in my neighborhood (63rd and Kedzie)”) or shaking our heads (“boring!”). We are grateful (and sometimes amused) by the comments, and we are eager to receive positive, as well as critical, feedback from our visitors.

It was very touching to meet the sons of the late Mrs. Clara Klingeman who donated most of the garments to the Oriental Institute (see News & Notes, no. 191, pp. 6–7). They visited several times and related amusing anecdotes about their childhood memories of the clothing.

After Embroidering Identities closed, the gallery was prepared for an Education Department exhibit entitled Through Young Eyes: Nubian Art Recreated that ran from April 11 to May 6, 2007. Information about that exhibit can be found in the report of the Education Department.

On May 15, our next exhibit Daily Life Ornamented: The Medieval Persian City of Rayy opened in conjunction with a reception for the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums. It continues to October 14, 2007. This show is a good illustration of collaboration between the museum, faculty and graduate students. Don Whitcomb, Research Associate (Associate Professor) of Islamic Archaeology, mentioned to Geoff that one of his graduate students, Tanya Treptow, had done a thoughtful paper on how Islamic art is represented in museum galleries. From that paper came the idea for an exhibit that examines how archaeologists deal with fragments of a culture (in this case, beautifully decorated sherds), and how they can use those shattered records to reconstruct a culture. Objects in the exhibit are from the collection
of the Oriental Institute. The beautiful exhibit had a number of good outcomes; it provided a graduate student with valuable curatorial experience and an important and attractive publication, and a great number of previously unaccessioned and unpublished sherds were registered and photographed in preparation for the exhibit.

As the temporary exhibits evolve, the catalog component has become an essential part of each show. Iman Saca, in collaboration with Maha Saca, authored the Embroidering Identities volume, and Tanya Treptow, with contributions by Don Whitcomb, Oliver Watson, and John Larson, was responsible for the Rayy catalog. There is no possibility that the museum could produce these catalogs without the skill, good humor, and patience of Tom Urban and Leslie Schramer in our Publications Office. They have thrown themselves into the challenge of producing publications with a completely different look, feel, and market than the highly academic books that they usually produce, and they have made a seamless transition. Each catalog is more handsome than the last. Dianne Hanau-Strain designed the elegant covers of the last two catalogs. The volumes have experienced strong sales. Denise Browning of the Suq has promoted them by featuring each on the back page of News & Notes and through prominent placement in the shop. News releases about the exhibits mention the availability of the catalog. Our international book distributor, David Brown Book Co., has likewise promoted them. We are still feeling our way through the complexities of price points and print runs, but we are gratified to know that the catalogs have a market.

**Upcoming Exhibits**

- European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopranos. November 2, 2007–March 2, 2008 (members’ opening, Tuesday, October 30). This exhibit of maps, sea charts, and atlases explores how the intellectual and geographical discoveries of the fifteenth century modified the medieval view of the cosmos, and how cartographers sought to produce world maps that reconciled classical ideas
and theories with the information collected and brought back by travelers and voyagers. Presented in conjunction with the citywide Festival of Maps.

- Catastrophe! The Looting of Iraq’s Past. April 10–December 31, 2008. This exhibit reviews the appalling damage to archaeological sites and the cultural heritage of Iraq by illicit digging that still continues five years after the looting of the Iraq Museum in Baghdad.

We are working with faculty, staff and graduate students as well as with our colleagues in other institutions to develop exhibits and to find funding sources for them. A priority in our planning is to offer a variety of themes that represent various geographic areas. A special exhibits committee has been formed to evaluate exhibits proposals. The reality of the time and budget required to produce two special exhibits with catalogs has sunk in, especially as we work on multiple exhibits simultaneously.

PUBLICITY

Emily Teeter

This year posed particular challenges for publicity because of the near absence of a budget for paid promotion. In previous years, we had some funds associated with the corporate sponsorship of permanent galleries. Despite that shortfall, we received considerable press coverage in the form of feature stories on the work of faculty and staff and special exhibits. As always, our efforts have been supported and our successes ensured by the continuing assistance of William Harms of the News Office.

We continue to work closely with city cultural organizations developing programming which ensures that we are listed in their publications. As in the past, much of that success is due to the ingenuity of the Education Department and Carole Krucoff, who are able to devise programs that seem to fit any theme. For example, we had a listing in the city’s “Winter Delights” promotion (a brochure with a print run of 400,000 copies that was included as a supplement to Chicago Magazine), and we offered “Games Pharaoh Played” for the “Art of Play” promotion (200,000 copies). Our program was so appealing that it was given a full page in the program. Likewise, we were featured in the Department of Cultural Affairs “Chicago Immersion Weekends” program under “Intimate Look at Chicago’s Museums.” We continue to be included in the Chicago Neighborhood Tours whose brochure has a print run of 55,000. Not only does the city produce enormous numbers of their promotional pieces, but the brochures are very widely distributed, giving us far broader reach than we could ever achieve on our own.

We received good coverage in major media. The New York Times reported on Professor Norman Golb and his research on the Dead Sea Scrolls, and there were major stories on the excavations of Clemens Reichel at Hamoukar and Geoff Emberling and Bruce Williams in Sudan. These stories were picked up by the wire services and widely reprinted (as far away as Kazakhstan!). A New York Times article on “Must See Neighborhoods” specifically suggested a visit to the Oriental Institute. Local press was also attentive. The Chicago Sun-Times ran an article on Scott Branting and the CAMEL Lab in their “E-Biz” column. The University of

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Chicago Magazine had a very amusing feature on an origami lamassu by noted artist Robert Lang. The piece was photographed in front of its much larger prototype, and the resulting image later turned up on the magazine’s fund raising letter, giving us additional exposure. The story of the Persepolis tablets (see News & Notes, no. 192, pp. 3–9) was covered by media from Archaeology to the New York Times.

In the effort to learn more about how the Oriental Institute and its museum can be promoted, we served as subjects for a marketing class at Roosevelt University, a collaboration proposed by Gil Stein. Two student teams presented detailed reports on how to increase our visibility on a limited budget. Some ideas were very good and worthy of implementation. I also met with a class on social entrepreneurs from Manchester College that was studying the Institute and its publicity efforts.

As we hoped, the special exhibits have generated publicity. Saudi Aramco World ran a very impressive feature on the forthcoming map exhibit. Time Out Chicago has been very supportive, running features on the Palestine show and the Rayy exhibit. In the effort to reach new audiences, we did a direct mail campaign to Muslim groups (mosques, community centers) to make them aware of the Embroidering Identities exhibit.

I was thankful for the help of intern Eric Rogers who spent fall and part of winter quarter helping me and others at the Institute. He was able to use his impressive technology skills to design a new image-imbedded e-mail notification system for lectures and events. Another of his lasting contributions was un-snarling and streamlining the various media mailing lists, making it easier and more effective to communicate with the press via e-mail. He also developed and administered a survey of museum visitors to try to establish, in the absence of paid promotion, how people know about us, and what they know. One of the surprises was that a full 28% of the visitors learned of us “through word of mouth,” and another 22% from teachers.

In the past, we have communicated the opening of temporary exhibits to the media at a press preview. We dispensed with this for the Palestine and Rayy exhibits, substituting more targeted contact with specific press. Indeed, at least for these two exhibits, the revised strategy seems to have been effective, for we managed to receive a number of feature stories. Although our budget has not allowed us to produce another round of street pole banners, each temporary exhibit is prominently advertised by banners at the 58th Street entrance.

We are experimenting with new technology for publicity. Working with William Harms and Tim Gutowski in the University of Chicago News and Information Office, we produced a “vodcast” (brief digital video) featuring Geoff Emberling and Rayy exhibit curators Tanya Treptow and Don Whitcomb. It was mounted on the news office’s Web site. We all learned a lot through this experience, and with Bill and Tim’s help, we hope to produce another for the upcoming map exhibit.
REGISTRATION

Helen McDonald

The most significant event of the year for Registration was the retirement of Ray Tindel after twenty-one years as Museum Registrar (and prior to that Museum Preparator). A conference organized by the Oriental Institute to mark Ray’s years of service included papers by several researchers who had used the Institute’s museum collections extensively in their research on old excavations. These included Mark Garrison (Persepolis seal designs), Clemens Reichel (Diyala), Bruce Williams (Nubian Salvage excavations), and Karen Wilson (Bismaya). The lectures were followed by a reception in the Persian Gallery, and many of the museum’s volunteers past and present were able to be there.

The registration department has moved over 52,000 objects this year (an increase of around 40% on the previous year). Just over 600 of these objects were used in teaching and over 5,500 were the subject of research of all kinds. Over 27,000 were newly registered objects (a 33% increase on the previous year) and over 300 related to the special exhibits. The museum database now has over 188,000 object numbers.

We received the final batch of storage cabinets from our last IMLS grant at the end of February and these were used to re-house Nubian pottery from Adindan and Ballana (850 items). We also took delivery of two textile cabinets, into which the conservators are presently re-housing a large portion of our Nubian textiles. Two banks of new Delta shelving have now been filled with heavy objects. In May of this year, we heard that Laura D’Alessandro’s latest application to the IMLS has also been successful and so during the next two years we will be receiving a further forty-three storage cabinets, a run of pallet racks for more of our heavy objects, and a final textile cabinet. The first delivery will take place at the end of the summer.

One of Registration’s main foci of activity this year has been hosting and assisting three outside researchers who are working on final publications of the later levels at three of the Amuq sites. Lynn Swartz Dodd (Tell Judaidah), Marina Pucci (Chatal Höyük), and Heather Snow (Tayinat) have all been working on both archival records, pottery, and objects from their various sites. The material of the fourth and third millennia from these and other Amuq sites has already been published in Excavations in the Plain of Antioch by Robert and Linda Braidwood (OIP 61), but much remains to be done with the Middle and Late Bronze age, the Iron Age, and later material. The Amuq researchers have studied over 2,600 objects this year and are still hard at work on both our collections and Amuq material held in the Antakya Museum. All three of our Amuq researchers are compiling computer databases of their material, so it was decided to register all of the sherds now in order that the OIM registration number could be used as the unique identifier in the databases. This registration of all the Amuq sherds has occupied both of our museum assistants and almost all our hard-working volunteers this year and accounts for the majority of new registrations.

The collections continue to be used for teaching and research. Users include the following:

Donald Whitcomb used Islamic sherds from the Amuq for a class held in the spring quarter.
Robert Ritner used parts of one of the copies of the Book of the Dead (the Hynes papyrus) for a class in the autumn, and several inscribed scarabs for another class in the spring quarter.
Persis Berlekamp taught a class on the Islamic art of the book in the spring quarter for which she used some of our Arabic and Persian manuscripts.
Janet Johnson used some of the large Demotic marriage contracts for a class in the spring quarter.
Hratch Papazian used two hieratic ostraca for a class in the autumn quarter.
Students taking part in Aslıhan Yener’s museum installation course in the autumn quarter used a selection of Amuq objects to research and plan a small exhibit.
Foy Scalf and Jackie Jay continued to read Demotic ostraca.
François Gaudard has also been reading Demotic ostraca.
Dominique Bonatz (who has recently begun to excavate at Tell Fakhariyah, Syria) visited to examine both objects and archival records from the Oriental Institute’s excavations at that site.
Rebecca Ward visited to examine both objects and excavation records from temple 2048 at Megiddo (strata 8 and 7).
Hanan Charaf Mullins visited to record the bichrome pottery from Megiddo for a project re-examining all the bichrome pottery from the eastern Mediterranean.
Alex Nagel came to work on Persepolis excavation records and objects, with particular reference to the use of color on the reliefs.
Hamid Reza Valipour visited to study and photograph the collection of newly registered Chalcolithic sherds from Cheshmeh Ali (Iran). This is for a computer database that will be used to publish the Cheshmeh Ali ceramics including not only those in the Oriental Institute Museum, but also those in Tehran and the University Museum in Philadelphia.
Karen Wilson continues to work on material from Bismaya and the preparation of a guide to the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamia Gallery. She has also used Nippur pottery for a class in a course on Nippur by McGuire Gibson.
With the success of his recent National Endowment for the Humanities grant application, Clemens Reichel has continued to work on Diyala material. At the time of writing, Angela Altenhofen is drawing seal impressions for this project.
We have been involved in making preparations for incoming loans for our next special exhibit, entitled European Cartographers and the Ottoman World, 1500–1750: Maps from the Collection of O. J. Sopronos, as well as work on outgoing loans that will take place in the next twelve months. We have had requests to borrow objects from the Louvre (Paris), the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), and the Institute of Humanities of the University of Michigan. We may also be lending objects to the Smart Museum on campus.
We have answered queries on subjects as diverse as the molded figurines from Medinet Habu, Hellenistic coinage, oil lamps, Meroitic pottery, and whether our collection contains any baboon mummies (it does not).

These accomplishments have been made possible by the capable and efficient efforts of museum assistants Dennis Campbell and Courtney Jacobson, with the help of a wonderful group of volunteers, including Joan Barghusen, Gretel Braidwood, Elizabeth Davidson, Joe Diamond, Janet Helman, Barbara Levin, Daila Shefner, Toni Smith, and Jim Sopronos. The volunteers have altogether contributed well over a thousand hours of their time to Museum Registration. Following his retirement, Ray Tindel joined our group of volunteers. At the time of writing, Dennis Campbell had just heard that he has a post-graduate position working with the Persepolis tablets project (in addition to his work on the Hittite Dictionary). While this is great news for him, we will miss him greatly down here in Registration. Dennis has been museum assistant since 2002 and has helped during the recent gallery re-installations and with the unpacking of the collection as we have acquired new cabinets. Both Ray Tindel and Helen McDonald have valued his care with object handling, attention to detail, and his cheerful demeanor. We wish him all the best.
In early December 2006, John Larson passed his twenty-sixth anniversary as Museum Archivist.

Photographic Services

Until December 2006, John Larson was assisted by graduate-student assistant Tobin Hartnell. Among many other projects, Toby scanned the field negatives of the Aerial Survey of Iran and a selection of images for the Rayy exhibit. On October 1, 2006, Margaret Schröeder was appointed Assistant Archivist, with the responsibility for preparing the necessary paperwork and handling all the other details that are involved in processing the requests that we receive for photographic image materials and reproduction permissions. Margaret has also scanned several large record groups of black-and-white negatives in the Archives and entered the metadata for the images into our photo image database. Between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007, we processed 234 requests for photographic images, reproduction permission, and information. Income from sales of Oriental Institute photographic images and permission fees for the fiscal year 2006/2007 totaled $13,513. The income from photo sales and reproduction fees enables us to purchase archival supplies and equipment for the Archives and for Photography.

Archives

Visiting scholars during fiscal year 2006/2007 included Jeffrey Abt, Dominik Bonatz, Eric Cline, Lynn Schwarz Dodd, Michael Jones, Suzanne Loibl, Timothy Matney, Alexander Nagel, Wayne Pitard, Marina Pucci, Heather Snow, Hamid Reza Valipour, Rasool Vatandoust, and Ruth Ward. From within our own Oriental Institute community, Vanessa Davies, Peter Dorman, Robert Ritner, Emily Teeter, Tanya Treptow, Theo van den Hout, Donald Whitcomb, and Karen L. Wilson have conducted research using Archives materials. We would also like to thank Thomas James for his many contributions to the operation of the Archives.

Recent Acquisitions

In September 2006, Mr. Peter Sharp contacted the Oriental Institute with the offer of a collection of photographic materials and other records of Leslie Frederick Thompson, who had served as the only official photographer of the Oriental Institute’s Sakkarah Expedition from October 1, 1931, through June 30, 1936. Leslie (“Tom”) Thompson had given his collection to Mr. Sharp’s mother, who left the material to her son when she passed away. The Thompson Collection arrived in Chicago in October, and it gives us great pleasure to acknowledge here Mr.
Sharp’s generous gift of photographic negatives, prints, motion picture film, and related materials of Leslie F. Thompson. This archive is a wonderful addition to our existing record of the work of the Sakkarah Expedition and its principal project, the two-volume publication of the Mastaba of Mereruka. Mr. Thompson was a meticulous record-keeper, and his negatives are numbered and identified. We have been adding names and dates to a number of previously unidentified or poorly identified pictures in our collection. It is particularly nice to have so many “new” candid photographs of personnel and their work (and play) activities in Egypt. We have had virtually no visual documentation of the Sakkarah House itself, and now, thanks to Mr. Sharp, we have a number of good photographs of interiors and exteriors of the expedition headquarters. There are also pictures taken on holiday, including some of Chicago House and the Epigraphic Survey Staff, the Cairo Zoo, and the old Shepheard’s Hotel in Cairo. In November 2006 Mr. Sharp very kindly sent us an addition to the Thompson Collection, a note card containing photographs of Prentice Duell (Field Director of the Sakkarah Expedition), “Tom” Thompson and his wife Hilda, and Marina Kossoff, another member of the expedition.

The transition on the third floor of the Oriental Institute building, putting the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project in the space that formerly housed the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary files, has resulted in the transfer of some additional papers of A. Leo Oppenheim and I. J. Gelb to the Archives. We would also like to thank Prof. Emer. Robert Biggs for a number of contributions of Oriental Institute-related ephemera to the Archives during the past year.

Volunteers and Student Assistants

The following people have contributed their time during fiscal year 2006/2007 and have made it possible for us to begin, continue, and complete a number of projects in the Oriental Institute Archives that would not have been possible without their generosity and dedication: Hazel Cramer, Peggy Grant, Patricia Hume, Sandra Jacobsohn, Roberta Kovitz, Bryan Moles, Lillian Schwartz, Robert Wagner, and Carole Yoshida. We are very grateful for the services of these volunteers, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge them here for their efforts on behalf of the Archives.

Throughout the summer of 2006, four student interns — Julia van den Hout, Jessica Henderson, Kaitlin Ford, and Rachel Kreiter — worked on new shelf lists for the Archives Storage Room and other tasks, under the supervision of John Larson. During the academic year, John was assisted by Bryan Moles and by two graduate students from the MAPSS program, Steve Catania and Sheena Finnigan.

CONSERVATION

Laura D’Alessandro

It is very true that life in the conservation laboratory is seldom boring. Conservation was faced with a variety of challenges this past year that kept the conservation staff on its toes. Each of the special exhibits that Conservation was involved in this year presented interesting challenges. Alison Whyte, the Assistant Conservator, spearheaded the conservation efforts of both the Embroidered Identities and Rayy exhibits. The Embroidered Identities special exhibit involved
the dressing of two-dimensional wooden armatures with clothing intended for three dimensional bodies. Alison and Monica Hudak, our Contract Conservator, performed miracles on the imaginative human-size stick figures produced by Erik Lindahl and Brian Zimerle. The Rayy exhibit provided its own challenges. In addition to carrying out cleaning and mending treatments on over sixty ceramics, objects conservators performed the very basic paper conservation technique of applying hinges of Japanese tissue to the wonderful Rayy watercolors.

Alison returned in late July from her work in Sardis, Turkey, conserving wall paintings from the ancient city of Sardis. She presented an illustrated lecture of her excavation experience to the museum staff upon her return. The following spring, Alison attended the annual meeting of the American Institute of Conservation in Richmond, Virginia. The focus of this year’s meeting was fakes, forgeries, and fabrications in the art world.

In addition to working under Alison’s supervision on the conservation needs of the special exhibits, Monica spent a portion of her time working on the Persepolis Fortification Tablet project. Monica’s contribution is important to the overall success of the tablet imaging project and her work on the tablets is an ongoing concern. In further aid of the Persepolis tablet project, the Conservation Laboratory received a very generous grant from the Women’s Board of the University of Chicago to purchase a Class IV laser cleaning device. The laser equipment will allow a high level of accuracy and control in cleaning the very fragile clay tablets. The laser equipment will have a life after the Persepolis tablet project is completed as it will serve as a specialized cleaning tool for the museum and research collections.

No sooner had the 2005 IMLS rehousing grant activities been completed than the Oriental Institute Museum received a 2007 Conservation Project Support grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This two-year grant will allow the museum staff to continue to rehouse portions of the collections that are still in cardboard boxes from the “great migration,” more commonly known as the construction project. The collections that will be rehoused during this project include Nubian organic materials of leather, wood, and textile; ceramic vessels from Serra (Nubia); human remains from the sites of Megiddo, Alishar, and Nippur; and large stone sculptural fragments from Khorsabad. A total of forty-three new, museum-quality cabinets and industrial pallet racks will be purchased with these funds, including a customized textile cabinet for several of the oversized Nubian textiles.

Under the direction of Gil Stein, the Institute received another training grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for a second conservation training program for conservators from war-ravaged countries of the Middle East. The Institute conservators are busy preparing the laboratory and formulating the curriculum for this six-month course that will encompass both scientific theory and practical work. As part of the preparations for the arrival of the participants, Gil contacted Dr. Ra’id Abdullah in the Department of Pediatric Medicine at the University of Chicago. Dr. Abdullah had expressed interest in trying to help with the programs in some way, soon after the Institute received the first training grant. After meeting with Gil and Laura, Dr. Abdullah sent out an e-mail to the entire hospital asking for donations of binocular microscopes for the participants. The response has been overwhelming as doctors all over the hospital opened their hearts and their storage closets, looking for “retired” microscopes. We are very appreciative of Dr. Abdullah’s assistance in reaching out to the medical community and to all of the doctors who contributed to the program. With the help of funding from an anonymous donor, we are currently in the process of outfitting several of the donated microscopes to adapt them to the particular needs of archaeological conservation. As the seemingly endless visa process proceeds, the entire Institute is looking forward to the arrival of the first participants.
As I look around the prep shop I see the remnants of the year past. Taped to the wall above my desk are the Palestinian Heritage Foundation postcards that we used as reference when putting together the Embroidering Identities show; next to them is the invitation to Ray Tindel’s Retirement conference. Under one of our worktables is the first model that Brian Zimerle and I made as part of a feasibility study on the possibility of moving the Spertus Institute’s “Artifact Center” to the Oriental Institute. This year has been a busy one. The large permanent gallery reinstallation projects have been replaced with many less monumental and more diverse tasks. This new workload has caused us to have to solve more problems faster while collaborating with more people.

The Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery has been a busy place with materials coming and going from lands near and far. It was the home to photos of the opening of King Tut’s tomb taken by Henry Burton and loaned to us by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Palestinian traditional dress loaned to us by the Palestinian Heritage Foundation, art inspired by pieces in the Robert F. Picken Family Nubia Gallery created by students from Fiske Elementary at Little Black Pearl, and some of the remnants of the Persian city Rayy accompanied by two miniatures loaned to us from the Art Institute of Chicago. Pulling together these exhibits required quite a lot of cooperation and creativity.

The beauty of the photos in the Tut show made it very rewarding. This show is also noteworthy because of its use of modern technology. All that was exchanged between the Oriental Institute and the Metropolitan Museum of Art was a DVD containing high-resolution scans of Burton’s original prints that were digitally printed, mounted, and framed. Embroidering Identities, an exhibit of fairly modern (for the Oriental Institute, at least) Palestinian dress, was new ground for the Oriental Institute. Brian Zimerle, Markus Dohner, the conservation lab, the curators Iman and Maha Saca, and I all collaborated in the many stages of the design and fabrication of the armatures used to display the dresses. This cooperation allowed us to devise a way to display the material as true to form as possible.

Through Young Eyes, sponsored by the Joyce Foundation, was a joint project of Fiske Elementary, the Oriental Institute Museum, and Little Black Pearl art studio. Students from Fiske produced work inspired by artifacts found in the Picken Family Nubia Gallery that was then displayed at both the Oriental Institute Museum and Little Black Pearl. The prep shop produced and installed the exhibits at both venues and it was a pleasure to work with the Little Black Pearl staff. The Rayy show was our biggest challenge of the year. Due to issues with loan material, the show went through a lot of changes. Tanya Treptow and Donald Whitcomb, working with Dianne Hanau-Strain, did a wonderful job with the design and curation of the exhibit. Andrew Furse,
PREP SHOP

Elizabeth Beggs, and I had an exciting time changing over from the Through Young Eyes exhibit to Rayy. We had a window that was much smaller than we would have liked to make the change. The absence of Geoff Emberling and Tom James due to the excavation in the Sudan also added to the excitement of install week.

The prep shop does not just build exhibits, it also assists with collections management, builds fixtures for the museum, and is the keeper of the keys to the Oriental Institute’s off-site storage space. Furthermore, this year Andrew Furse and I tried our hands at animal rescue. Some of these non-exhibit accomplishments include assisting Helen McDonald with the rearrangement of heavy object storage to make way for a visiting scholar who will be studying our Assyrian relief fragments. The prep shop worked with Museum Education once again to build another computer kiosk, this time for the Picken Family Nubia Gallery. We also took advantage of assisting in the relocation of items for the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary to off-site storage to do a little organizing. With the assistance of Hogan Movers, off-site storage was totally reorganized. This has helped not only free up space in the basement, but has also made it easier to select and move cases in and out for temporary exhibits.

The rescue of a duck family was by far, however, our most memorable moment of the year. The night of the opening of the Rayy exhibit, Andrew Furse and I were enlisted to go to Botany Pond and rescue some ducklings that had been relocated there without the mother and found themselves in the territory of several other extremely aggressive duck families. Wielding a net, we rolled up our pant legs and waded in. Safe and sound, our ten ducklings, reunited with their mother, are now happily days away from flying.

SUQ

Denise Browning

This was another busy and exciting year for the Suq. We started the year off in October with the annual dinner. Kitty and Rita Picken came up with the wonderful idea of decorating the tables with Suq merchandise! So we ordered lots of new merchandise that complemented the dinner table decorations and promoted our sales as well.

The Tut exhibit at The Field Museum drew many new customers to the Suq so our Egyptian merchandise flew off the shelves. They all raved about our museum and the Suq, many wishing they had just come to the Oriental Institute instead.

We barely had time to catch our breath to prepare for the Embroidering Identities exhibit. We ordered lots of handmade Palestinian embroidery and jewelry from a woman’s cooperative in Bethlehem. The colorful, mostly geometric embroideries have always been a favorite of mine. We complemented it with Dead Sea salts, olive soap, and the colorful ceramics of the region.

The Smart Museum invited us to help stock and redesign their shop for their Cosmophilia exhibit. It was an exciting experience, plus we also gained sales from the sale of our merchandise at the Smart.

In our normal tasks we updated the Web page and instituted an e-mail listhost mailing list through the university and also an e-mail sign up in the Suq, which gave us over 500 addresses.
We also photographed several objects for our online Web page, which John Sanders added to our Web site, further increasing our sales.

But unfortunately for us we also saw the retirement of one of our most loyal volunteers, Muriel Brauer. Muriel has been with the Suq for over thirty years! She was always so cheerful and courteous to our customers, as well as informative. According to Muriel, she was also one of our best shoppers! I’m glad to report she is still full of energy!

Special thanks to our other great volunteers, Peggy Grant, Marda Gross, and Norma van der Meulen! Norma continues as our much valued in-house jewelry designer. Florence Ovadia tirelessly brings order and design to the store every Monday after a week’s worth of customer abuse.

Jennifer Westerfeld, Ph.D. candidate in Egyptology, was our book buyer, photographer, and mail order specialist. Also of great help were Amanda Finney, Nicole Lasky, Alycia Hesse, and Klara Scharnagl.

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MUSEUM EDUCATION

Carole Krucoff

Collaboration was the watchword for Museum Education this past year. Partnership programs broadened our services and horizons as we joined with long-time associates and new friends to provide a wide variety of educational activities for adults, youth, and families. Special exhibits were the springboard for many of our collaborative events, including an array of programs with The Field Museum in conjunction with special exhibits on Tutankhamun at their museum and our own. We also reached out to the community to partner with a range of city-wide initiatives, including Silk Road Chicago, Arab Heritage Month, Winter Delights, and Mayor Daley’s Kids and Kites. Other joint ventures ranged from media campaigns to a grant-funded exhibit of artwork by local youth.

Support from the Joyce Foundation, the Polk Bros. Foundation, and the Chicago Public Schools helped us provide in-depth museum learning experiences for children and their families. A grant from the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation helped us develop a unique teacher-training and school programming initiative on ancient Nubia. This report also describes how support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency, and a major new grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, are enabling us to continue our ground-breaking work in online education, which will serve teachers and students from across the nation and around the world.

Special Exhibit Programming

Tutankhamun Collaborations

The special exhibit Wonderful Things: The Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun: The Photos of Harry Burton, opened at the Oriental Institute in May, complementing Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs, a major traveling exhibition that was on view at The Field Museum.
Hosting these exhibitions gave the Oriental Institute and Field Museum the opportunity to jointly plan, present, and publicize a wide variety of programs.

- “Tut and His Treasures,” an adult education course taught by Emily Teeter, met at the Oriental Institute to focus on the special nature of our photographic collection and Egyptian Gallery. It also met at The Field Museum to concentrate on the grandeur of the special Tutankhamun exhibition.

- “Egyptian Exploration,” a professional development seminar for teachers of grades K–12, met for sessions at The Field Museum, the Oriental Institute, and also at the Chicago Botanic Garden, where teachers discovered plants from the land of the pharaohs.

- “Egyptomania, Chicago-Style,” a city-wide bus tour led by Egyptologist Michael Berger, visited the Oriental Institute as one of its sites and encouraged visits to The Field Museum.

- “Meet King Tut,” a hands-on program for children and their families, began at The Field Museum and then traveled to the Oriental Institute, where youngsters and their parents created versions of King Tut’s golden headdress.

- “The World in the Time of Tutankhamun,” a week-long summer seminar, was the centerpiece of our Tutankhamun programming. Publicized widely for us by The Field Museum, this program was held in collaboration with the University of Chicago’s Graham School of General Studies. Along with local participants, the seminar attracted registrants from states near and far as well as from Canada and Europe. The program featured lectures on the life and the times of Tutankhamun by Oriental Institute faculty including Peter Dorman, Associate Professor of Egyptology and Chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations; Janet H. Johnson, Morton D. Hull Distinguished Service Professor of Egyptology and Editor of the Chicago Demotic Dictionary Project; Seth Richardson, Assistant Professor of Ancient Near Eastern History; and Theo van den Hout, Professor of Hittite and Anatolian Languages and Executive Editor of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project. Museum and Institute staff presenters included: Geoff Emberling, Oriental Institute Museum Director; François Gaudard, Research Associate; John Larson, Museum Archivist; and Emily Teeter, Curator of the Egyptian and Special Exhibits Galleries. Advanced graduate student presenters included Dennis Campbell, Vanessa Davies, Deborra Heard, and Eudora Struble. Participants also enjoyed a behind-the-scenes visit led by Curatorial Assistant Tom James, a Middle Eastern dinner at Maza Restaurant, a visit to the Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs exhibition led by Oriental Institute Egyptologists, and a closing banquet at the University of Chicago’s Quadrangle Club. Interns Katharyn
Hanson and Rozenn Bailleul-LeSeur made sure every aspect of this multi-faceted program ran smoothly.

Joint programming with the national Elderhostel organization was another major partnership featuring Tutankhamun as one of their “Day of Discovery” programs. These events encourage senior citizens to become acquainted with the cultural resources local universities provide for the public. We were delighted to be selected by Elderhostel for a joint program with them. Our event featured a slide lecture by Geoff Emberling on the ancient Near East during the reign of Tutankhamun, and a slide lecture by Emily Teeter on the spectacular photographs in the Wonderful Things exhibit. A docent-led tour of the museum’s galleries was another program highlight. Luncheon at the Quadrangle Club was also included in this program that drew more than 100 participants from the entire metropolitan area, many of whom had never visited the Oriental Institute.

Wonderful Things also inspired a collaboration with the City of Chicago. During the summer, city-wide publicity funded as part of the Silk Road Chicago initiative drew visitors from throughout the area for a gallery talk on the Burton photographs by Emily Teeter and a museum tour by Geoff Emberling featuring artifacts from the time of Tutankhamun.

**Embroidering Identities and Daily Life Ornamented Programming**

Collaborations inspired by the special exhibit Embroidering Identities: A Century of Palestinian Clothing included partnerships on campus and with the city of Chicago. In conjunction with Arab Heritage Month in November the University of Chicago’s Middle East Music Ensemble came to the Oriental Institute to present a special concert of historic and contemporary Palestinian music. Visitors also enjoyed film screenings of “Palestinian National Costume,” which featured nineteenth- and early twentieth-century garments, headdresses, and jewelry presented to the beat of Arabic music. Gallery talks by Iman Sacca, exhibit curator and Assistant Professor of Anthropology at St. Xavier College, were special highlights. The exhibit also inspired Museum Education intern Jared Jeffers to create a self-guided treasure hunt that invited children and their families to seek out and discover meanings of the many symbols embroidered in the colorful garments. The hunt was so popular that copies disappeared almost as soon as they were stacked in the gallery.

The springtime opening of the special exhibit Daily Life Ornamented: The Medieval Persian City of Rayy led to collaborations with the Smart Museum, which was hosting an exhibit of
Islamic art. A cross-campus tour of both exhibits focused on ways archaeology provides context for Islamic art as well as the enduring legacies of Islamic artistic traditions. Tanya Treptow, Daily Life Ornamented co-curator, led the Oriental Institute portion of this joint program that quickly filled to capacity. “Islamic Art and Archaeology,” an adult education course taught by A. Asa Eger was also sponsored by and featured study sessions at both museums.

Daily Life Ornamented was the springboard for a new Oriental Institute partnership with the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF). Frances Laidlaw, CAF Docent, worked with Donald Whitcomb, Associate Professor of Islamic and Medieval Archaeology; Tanya Treptow; and Carole Krucoff, Head of Public and Museum Education, to develop a bus tour highlighting Islamic-style architecture throughout the city. The tour, which also featured docent-led gallery talks in the Daily Life Ornamented exhibit, sold out during its first presentation in the spring. The second trip, held in summer, also filled to capacity.

Our Sunday film showings included special screenings for Daily Life Ornamented. Tanya Treptow introduced and led a discussion of “Persian Miniature: The Gardens of Paradise,” a documentary film on medieval Persian art and culture. “Children of Heaven,” an Iranian feature film nominated for an Academy Award as Best Foreign Language Film in 1998, was shown at the Oriental Institute courtesy of the University of Chicago’s Film Center.

Adult Education

Along with programs related to special exhibits, we provided many other adult education opportunities this past year. These included multi-session courses on campus and at the Gleacher Center; correspondence courses for distance learning, single session adult education programs; and free drop-by events throughout the year.

Courses

Correspondence courses this past year included “Hieroglyphs by Mail” taught by Andrew Baumann and Jacqueline Jay, and “Intermediate Hieroglyphs” by Andrew Baumann. Both these courses now provide a special certificate of completion for all students who finish assigned class work. While all our courses are non-credit adult education opportunities, students have been requesting such certificates for many years and appreciate them as mementos of their learning experiences. Certificates were also provided for students who completed “Ancient Egyptian Architecture,” an audio course developed by Emily Teeter. This course, which drew students from locales across the United States as well as Canada, South Africa, and even Egypt, included a Web component with slide presentations featuring full-color views of ancient sites, artifacts from the Oriental Institutes collections, and photographs from Teeter’s own collection.

Nearly all our on-campus and Gleacher Center courses are presented in collaboration with the University of Chicago’s Graham School of General Studies, which joins us on course development, advertising, and registration. The Graham School also works with the Illinois
State Board of Education to offer continuing education credits to all K–12 teachers who take our courses.

This year our joint Graham School courses included:

- “Merchants of the Desert: The Lost Kingdom of the Nabateans,” taught by Joey Corbett
- “Khorsabad: Capital of the Assyrian Empire,” taught by Geoff Emberling
- “Excavating Armageddon: The Ancient Israelite City of Megiddo,” “Lo, the Vile Asiatic: Ancient Egypt’s Love/Hate Relationship with Canaan and Ancient Israel,” and “With Bible and Trowel: An Exploration of the Historicity of Ancient Israel,” all taught by Gabrielle V. Novacek
- “The Dead Sea Scrolls: The Texts and Their Meaning,” taught by Israel Sandman
- “Cultures of the Silk Road,” taught by Ilya Yakubovich

**Special Programs and Drop-by Events**

In addition to formal courses, Museum Education provided a broad spectrum of special adult education programs and free events designed to explore themes related to ancient or contemporary Middle Eastern culture. Our series of Middle Eastern cuisine and cookery experiences continued this year with two new dining experiences. At “A Taste of Ethiopia,” held at Ethiopian Diamond Restaurant, owner Almaz Yiguzaaw invited everyone to savor the unique cuisine and dining experiences of her homeland. At “A Taste of the Levant,” held at Maza Restaurant, owner and master chef Joseph Kuri highlighted the elegant cuisine of his Lebanese homeland and taught everyone the secrets of one of his favorite recipes. This series has become one of our most sought-after programs and has introduced many Chicagoans to the Oriental Institute.

“Ancient Arts/Contemporary Artists,” held in March, was the start of new collaborative series with The Field Museum featuring the work of local artists inspired by the techniques and processes of ancient times. This first program, which focused on ancient writing processes and materials, began with a guided tour of the Oriental Institute’s galleries led by docent Kathleen Mineck, a Ph.D. candidate in the department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, who introduced the scripts, languages, and writing tools highlighted in our exhibits. During the program’s second half, held at the Hyde Park Art Center, paper artist Mary Tepper demonstrated the making of papyrus and invited everyone to create their own ancient-style paper. The day ended with a wine-and-cheese reception where the whole group urged us to make this a permanent series.

Widespread media attention brought many new visitors to the Oriental Institute for three special lectures this year. These free lectures took advantage of seasonal celebrations and the publicity available to us through city-wide initiatives. Timed to coincide with Valentine’s Day, February’s highlight was “Love and Sex in Ancient Egypt.” Presented by Emily Teeter, this lecture captured headlines in several city newspapers and — no surprise! — drew a large crowd. Jacqueline Jay also inscribed special

*Pounding plant fibers to make papyrus was a special feature during Ancient Arts/Contemporary Artists, an event co-sponsored by The Field Museum and Hyde Park Art Center. Photo by Carole Krucoff*
Valentine sentiments in ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs for visitors.

Two additional lectures were co-sponsored by Museum Education and the Oriental Institute Membership Office. In conjunction with Womens’ History Month in March, Janet H. Johnson presented a new take on a famous queen with a lecture entitled “Cleopatra as CEO: Bureaucracy and Scandal in the Hostile Takeover of a First Millennium (B.C.) Multinational.” In April, the city’s Silk Road Chicago initiative featured guest lecturer Pavel Lurye, a Russian scholar associated with the Institut für Iranistik in Vienna, who presented “The Road Map of the Silk Road: How Did Caravans Reach China in the Early Middle Ages?”

Other free drop-by events focused on outreach to the University community. During Student Orientation Week in September we welcomed newcomers with docent-led gallery tours. Guided tours for the University’s Humanities Day and Parents Weekend programs are a long-standing tradition. The University community, along with local residents and visitors from throughout the area, also continue to enjoy our free Sunday film showings, which feature documentary and feature films on the ancient and contemporary Middle East.

Youth and Family Services

Museum Education presented an array of long-time favorites as well as special new programs for children and families this past year. Three outreach programs used off-site formats to reach new audiences. In the fall we joined the 57th Street Children’s Book Fair in celebrating their twentieth anniversary as well as the Oriental Institute’s twenty years of participation. Special thanks to Nicole Brisch, Oriental Institute Post-Doctoral Fellow, for her help in showing children what it’s like to “dig into history.” This simulation of an archaeological dig was one of the fair’s most popular events.

For the ninth straight summer, we traveled to the Lill Street Art Center on the city’s north side, where teaching artists Mary Tepper and Ashley Golden took part in two week-long sessions of “Be An Ancient Egyptian Artist,” a summer day-camp program for children ages 8–12. The program, which filled to capacity for both sessions, included a visit to the Oriental Institute, where Jessica Caracci, Education Programs Assistant, developed the art-making sessions and arranged guided tours for the campers.

Jessica Caracci also joined with educators from other Hyde Park cultural organizations to plan and present
activities for our neighborhood’s first booth at Mayor Daley’s Kids and Kites Festival, which is held on the lawn of the Museum of Science and Industry each spring. Hundreds of children and their families stopped at the Oriental Institute table where museum staff and interns helped them create kites and kite-tails decorated with ancient Egyptian designs.

Back at the museum, Jessica developed and presented a special tour and hands-on activities for University Alumni and their families during this year’s celebration of June Reunion. She was also involved in our three largest on-site events for families, which took place as part of seasonal initiatives promoted by the city’s Department of Cultural Affairs. Mummies took center stage in October during our annual “Mummies Night” pre-Halloween celebration in conjunction with Chicago Book Month. City-wide publicity brought us more than 350 children and their families who joined us for a “tomb-full” of programming. Breasted Hall was filled to overflowing as the acclaimed Kidworks Theater Company brought ancient Egyptian stories and tales to life with a rousing presentation of “The Pharaoh, the Sphinx, and the Curse of the Mummy.”

Docents and interns offered a round of activities that ranged from origami bat-making to a “Guess the Gummy Mummies” contest to dressing up like ancient Egyptians with costumes from “King Tut’s Closet.” Holiday Adventures, a new initiative for the holiday season, gave us city-wide promotion for a weekend program in December that featured hands-on activities, family treasure hunts, and wonderful shopping opportunities during the Suq’s holiday sale.

In February we celebrated African American Heritage Month with “Awesome Ancient African Arts: A Festival for Families.” Promoted by the City of Chicago’s Winter Delights initiative, this program attracted close to 500 children and their families for an afternoon filled with hands-on activities, treasure hunts, films, crafts projects, and more. Docents wearing “Ask Me” badges staffed the Egyptian and Nubian Galleries to answer countless questions from visitors. Leather worker Carol Jackson and ceramic artists Theaster Gates and Meghan Peterson involved families in recreating arts processes from ancient times. Awad Abdelgadir, Nubian artist and educator, returned to repeat the stellar performance he presented for us last year during the opening of the Picken Family Nubia Gallery. Breasted Hall was filled to capacity for “Life on the Nile,” his fascinating multi-media journey to today’s Nubia.
Many of the parents and children who joined us for “Awesome Ancient African Arts” could do so due to support from Museum Connections: Beyond the Classroom Walls, a special museum/schools outreach program for families that is funded by the Department of Mathematics and Science of the Chicago Public Schools. The Oriental Institute Museum was invited to take part in Museum Connections in partnership with Bret Harte School, Claremont Academy, and Henry Elementary School, three Chicago public schools where the parent populations do not often consider museums as learning venues for their families. We used at-school sessions to involve students and their families in arts processes and techniques from ancient times, and also to introduce ways archaeologists learn about the past through analysis of animal bones and the scientific study of mummies. We then invited the families to come to the museum for “Awesome Ancient African Arts” using bus transportation provided by Museum Connections. We were gratified when close to 100 children and their families from these schools joined us that day. Special thanks go to the following people who made this program happen: Jessica Caracci, Jared Jeffers, Rupa Pillai, and Mary O’Shea from Museum Education, and Catherine Dueñas, Volunteer Coordinator from the Volunteer Program; teaching artists Mary Tepper and Pam Robinson; and Belinda Monahan, Oriental Institute Research Associate in Zooarchaeology.

The African Heritage Project

This past year, a major grant from the Joyce Foundation allowed the Oriental Institute to develop and implement the African Heritage Project, an intensive new program that built new bridges of collaboration to serve the youth of our community. The project enabled Chicago public school teachers and administrators, Oriental Institute Museum staff, and artists from the Little Black Pearl Art and Design Center to serve a sector of the population of Woodlawn by providing school outreach services that enriched the learning experiences of sixty 7th and 8th grade students and their families.

Using the Oriental Institute’s Picken Family Nubia Gallery as the springboard, educators from Fiske School, the Oriental Institute, and Little Black Pearl introduced the students to the rich history and heritage of ancient Nubia with specially developed curriculum materials for the classroom and a series of gallery tours and discussion sessions at the museum. During their museum visits, students selected and then photographed their favorite artifact from the Nubia exhibit. This work readied them to interpret their chosen artifacts in drawings, sculpture, poetry,
Development of students’ literacy, research, social studies, art, and critical thinking skills was a fundamental goal of the African Heritage Project. The project’s culmination was Through Young Eyes: Nubian Art Recreated, a two-part exhibit of student artwork at two venues — the Holleb Family Special Exhibit Gallery at the Oriental Institute and the central galleries at Little Black Pearl.

The time and talents of many people were crucial to the success of the African Heritage Project. Wendy Ennes, Oriental Institute Teacher Services and e-Learning Coordinator, served as overall Project Manager, providing leadership and support for all project activities. Her contributions ranged from scheduling and organizing every event to guiding students during the museum photography sessions to planning the exhibits at both its venues. Other Oriental Institute contributors included Emily Teeter, who took students on guided tours of the Nubia exhibit, and Erik Lindahl, Museum Preparator, who brilliantly installed the student artwork with the aide of Elizabeth Beggs, Andrew Furse, and Curatorial Assistant Tom James.

Stephanie Pearson, social studies teacher at Fiske School, was Wendy Ennes’ full partner in the African Heritage Project. She developed and taught the Nubia curriculum, helped to plan and prepare students for the museum visits, and ensured student participation at all project events. The support of Cynthia Miller, Fiske Principal, was also vital to the project’s success, as were the contributions of Valesta Cobb, Wilbert Miller, and Donna Turner.

Teaching artists Gwen Pruitt and Carla Carr led the art-making sessions at Little Black Pearl. Their guidance enabled the students, most of whom had no art making experience, to create artwork that was intriguing and moving. Monica Haslip, Executive Director, as well as Leon Haslip, Heidi Hickman, and Chinyeia Moody, also provided assistance and encouragement.
This special program, which united members of the Woodlawn, Hyde Park, and North Kenwood/Oakland communities, helped us create a collaborative model for educational partnerships that we can all build upon for the future.

From Anatolia to Africa: Museum Learning for Families

Over the past several years the Oriental Institute has received major support from the Polk Bros. Foundation to develop a comprehensive program of self-guided museum learning experiences for children and parents who seldom visit our museum. These include many of the African-American families living in neighborhoods surrounding the University of Chicago as well as the city’s growing population of Hispanic families.

Polk Bros. Foundation support from 2000 to 2003 enabled us to create a rich array of self-guided activities for the Egyptian and Mesopotamian Galleries. This success inspired the foundation to award the Oriental Institute a new two-year grant to develop similar services for the Empires in the Fertile Crescent: Ancient Assyria, Anatolia, and Israel exhibit and the Picken Family Nubia Gallery. With the completion of From Anatolia to Africa this past year, the Oriental Institute Museum has become an important family learning venue in the City of Chicago.

Like its predecessors, the primary objectives for From Anatolia to Africa were to:

- Create bilingual self-guided print materials and touch-screen computer activities that provide underserved families with engaging and educationally sound learning experiences in our museum.
- Develop and pilot these learning experiences through an ongoing dialogue and collaborative relationship with parents, students, and educators from schools representing the city’s African American and Hispanic communities.
- Establish a comprehensive program of self-guided family activities that are sustainable with manageable overhead.
- Build increased awareness among families and teachers about the educational opportunities provided by the Oriental Institute’s self-guided program.

Over the past two years all these goals were met through the involvement of a broad spectrum of collaborators who were crucial to the project’s success. An advisory panel of parents and children from local schools were our major partners for developing the self-guided activities now in place in the Empires exhibit and Nubia Gallery. Five families from the North Kenwood/Oakland Charter School (NK/O), where the student population is almost entirely African-American, joined us, with Marvin Hoffman, NK/O founding director, as educational advisor. Eight families from Nightingale School, where the student population is largely Hispanic, also worked with
A grandfather and granddaughter from North Kenwood/Oakland Charter School test prototype computer activities for the Nubia Gallery as part of the Families in the Museum project. Photo by Wendy Ennes

us, with Principal Maureen Savas and Vice-Principal Carmen Lehotan as educational advisors. During the projects’ first year, these families toured the Empires in the Fertile Crescent exhibit, identified objects they found intriguing, and suggested the kinds of activities they would find meaningful and enjoyable. They then returned to test and evaluate prototype activities that staff had developed. This past year these activities were repeated for the Nubia Gallery.

The outcomes of this process are rich and rewarding. Museum visitors can now explore and make discoveries about artifacts in the Empires exhibit and Nubia Gallery using full-color Family Activity Cards in English and Spanish. We have also produced a broad spectrum of exciting and instructive “hands-on” computer activities which introduce families to experiences that range from taking part in an archaeological excavation to “meeting” an educator from Sudan who explains what life is like in Nubia today.

Faculty from both partner schools became project collaborators this year, helping us determine the most effective ways the self-guided activities now in place throughout the museum could also be used as teaching and learning tools for the city’s schools. The entire faculty of Nightingale School — seventy teachers from grades K–8 — and nearly twenty teachers from NK/O came to the museum in spring, and all were amazed at the depth and richness of these activities. Their suggestions ranged from ways the Family Activity Cards could be used to prepare students for a museum tour to methods for using the computer activities for student research projects. They also urged us to host similar museum visits to introduce faculty from other schools to our resources, advice we are taking to heart, especially since we learned that nearly all the teachers had never visited the Oriental Institute!

The successes of From Anatolia to Africa would have been impossible to achieve without the expertise and creativity of the project’s staff and consultants. Geoff Emberling was our academic advisor. For the Nubia activities he was joined by Emily Teeter and Peter Dorman. Their involvement ensured that all materials would reflect the authenticity and most recent research of the Oriental Institute. Jessica Caracci shaped the content and copy for the Family Activity cards. To publicize the completed project she also researched and directed a major marketing campaign that included press release information and family-friendly advertisements for key media, as well as the distribution of posters declaring that “Every Day is Family Day at the Oriental Institute” to all Chicago Public Library branches. Wendy Ennes played a central role as the project’s art director. Nitzan Mekel-Bobrov, who has just received a Ph.D. in Genetics from the Committee on Genetics at the University of Chicago, was content researcher, computer

Principal of Nightingale School Maureen Savas, right, joins her faculty to listen as docent Joe Diamond, center left, leads a tour of the museum galleries. The tour was sponsored by the Polk Bros. Foundation. Photo by Wendy Ennes

MUSEUM EDUCATION
programmer, and multi-media architect. Ennes and Mekel-Bobrov obtained the latest equipment to outfit all Oriental Institute computer kiosks, ensuring their ability to serve the public for several years to come. Erik Lindahl installed the handsome gallery displays that house the project’s self-guided activities.

Maria Chagnon, University of Chicago graduate in Romance Languages, translated all the Family Activity cards into Spanish. Her fluency in Spanish was complemented by the Spanish language skills of Volunteer Coordinator Catherine Dueñas, who served as advisor, museum guide for the Spanish-speaking families, and editor for the bilingual Family Activity Cards.

Teresa Vazquez, the project’s evaluation consultant, was crucial to its success. She helped us set goals and objectives, prepared evaluation instruments in both English and Spanish for all family meetings, led discussion sessions in both languages so the families could communicate with each other, and wrote comprehensive reports to guide us in all aspects of our work. She also helped develop the survey instruments used during faculty visits this spring and helped shape these teacher programs in ways that have given us important information on how to integrate our family activities into school curricula.

The long-standing interest and generosity of the Polk Bros. Foundation has allowed us to provide a rich, comprehensive, and lasting program of self-guided learning experiences for all who come to the Oriental Institute Museum. Due to the Foundation’s vision and support, every day will be “Family Day” at the Oriental Institute for many years to come.

Teacher Services

Empowering teachers to enrich student learning though meaningful classroom and museum study of ancient civilizations is a major mandate for Museum Education. A vital way for us to reach this goal is to provide K–12 teachers and other educators with professional development and student learning opportunities based on the renowned collections, scholarly expertise, award-winning curriculum materials, and unique online resources of the Oriental Institute. This past year we completed two ground-breaking programs for teachers and began a major new initiative that will set our course for teacher training in the upcoming years.

Ancient Nubia, Teaching Training, and Student Achievement

Generous grants from the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation have been supporting teacher training at the Oriental Institute for many years. This year we completed a new initiative entitled Ancient Nubia: Teacher Training and Student Achievement, a project that moved beyond professional development to track student learning based upon the academic enrichment their teachers had received during training at the Oriental Institute.

This new project focused on the Institute’s exhibit of art and artifacts from ancient Nubia, whose rich artistic and cultural history are almost entirely missing...
from school curricula. The exhibit, combined with our broad array of curriculum materials and online resources, made the Oriental Institute ideally suited to provide meaningful professional development on Nubia for teachers of ancient civilizations, world history, global studies, African, and African-American studies.

Over the years, support from the Fry Foundation enabled us to create an online Teacher Resource Center that provided teachers nationwide with artifact images, online lessons, and interactive components for ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. The first component of our new project, which is explained in the Oriental Institute’s *Annual Report* for 2005–2006, focused on creating equally rich online resources for ancient Nubia. Developed by Wendy Ennes with the support of a panel of teacher advisors, these Web-based resources were launched in time to serve as a springboard for the project’s second component, an intensive two-week summer seminar designed to attract and serve teachers from inner city schools surrounding the University of Chicago. Seminar publicity took place in collaboration with Duel Richardson, Director of Neighborhood Relations/Education in the University’s Department of Community Affairs; Richardson’s associate, Yelene Modley; and Lisa Perez, Area Library Coordinator for the Chicago Public Schools. Thanks to their efforts seventeen elementary and high school educators from sixteen different schools — most on the city’s south side — registered for the seminar.

Coordinated by Wendy Ennes, the seminar focused on enhancing teacher understanding of the Oriental Institute’s academic and collections resources on ancient Nubia. Seminar lecturers included Geoff Emberling, who introduced the land and peoples of ancient Nubia; Debora Heard, who lectured on religion and burial practices in ancient Nubia; John Larson, who provided a history of the Oriental Institute’s archaeological explorations in Sudan; and Emily Teeter, who lectured on ancient Nubian society and also on the relationship between ancient Nubia and ancient Egypt. Wendy Ennes also involved the teachers in creating museum and classroom learning experiences on ancient Nubia that would fulfill state mandates for social studies content, literacy, critical thinking skills, and the integration of web resources into the curriculum.

The project’s third component was a partnership with the teachers in assessing and documenting student achievement as their classes took part in the museum and school-based learning experiences the teachers had created during the seminar. We documented student outcomes in a variety of ways. Education staff visited classrooms to see performances and exhibits of student work. We also observed classes as they took part in museum activities designed by their teachers. These ranged from a tour where students took digital photos of Nubian artifacts to create a slide show set to the beat of hip-hop music to a visit where students made drawings of designs on Nubian pottery and then used their research to decorate the pots they had created in the classroom. The students’ excitement and involvement in such projects provided us with many informal examples of positive outcomes, but we also partnered with nine of the teachers for more formal assessment. Using a survey instrument created by Wendy Ennes, these teachers reported on learning outcomes for 500 students. All the teachers indicated that classroom work and museum visits had brought about improvements in the students’ retention of content; development of
observation, critical thinking, and writing skills; and increased understanding of ancient Nubian history, culture, geography, and its role in world history. The teachers determined improvement using a wide variety of testing instruments, including quizzes, writing assignments, art projects, library and internet research projects, portfolio production, and map and timeline making.

Analysis such as this is crucial for a project that has student achievement as its ultimate goal. Ancient Nubia: Teacher Training and Student Achievement provides vital information on the relationship between professional development and student outcomes and has given us a model to build upon for all our future teacher training programs. It has also provided important documentation for us to share with the education community in Chicago and beyond.

Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, Our History

Another ground-breaking project to provide resources for teachers and their students came to an end this year with the completion of Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, Our History. Supported by a prestigious National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency, Ancient Mesopotamia is a unique Web-based project that includes three major components: a searchable database called “The Learning Collection,” which features key artifacts from the museum’s Mesopotamia collection; a curriculum-based simulated archaeological excavation called “Dig into History”; and an online course on ancient Mesopotamia that will provide professional development and graduate credit for teachers nationwide.

Wendy Ennes, Project Coordinator, was the driving force of this major initiative. She was joined by two University of Chicago collaborators — Chicago WebDocent and e-CUIP Digital Library, both a part of CUIP, the University of Chicago Internet Project.

“The Learning Collection,” launched online in February 2006, was the first project component to be completed. Designed for teachers and students of grades 6–12, it provides a state-of-the-art format for browsing, researching, and interacting with artifacts in a myriad of ways, ranging from zooming in to examine all aspects of an ancient sculpture to “rolling out” a cylinder seal to discover the intricacies and beauty of ancient Mesopotamian art. The production of such a resource was a labor-intensive process that demanded the time, talents, and expertise of a whole host of dedicated people. All the participants, and the entire process, are described in full detail in the Museum Education section of the Oriental Institute’s Annual Report for 2005–2006.

Wendy Ennes shaped the format and structure of the online professional development course, using the expertise she gained from two years of study in the University of Illinois Master Online Teaching Certification Program. Ancient Mesopotamia’s second major component, this online course was researched and written by Leslie Schramer, former graduate student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and edited by volunteer David Berry. Their work was guided and reviewed by numerous Oriental Institute faculty members, whose contributions are documented in the 2005–2006 Oriental Institute Annual Report.
This fall the online course will be offered for graduate credit to non-degree seeking educators nationwide in collaboration with the University of Chicago Graham School of General Studies.

This past year, the Ancient Mesopotamia team was involved in the extensive production required to complete and launch “Dig into History,” the project’s third major component. An archaeological simulation game that K–12 students and their teachers can access nationwide, “Dig into History” teaches the principles of archaeology and Mesopotamian history an engaging way. Game play begins with students choosing a “quest statement” that relates to a major idea or concept about ancient Mesopotamia. After selecting a quest, students begin unearthing artifacts, guided by Fahima Muhammed, an Iraqi archaeologist avatar. Students meet challenges, decide work schedules, and observe and catalog their finds. They end the game by creating an online photographic exhibit of their discoveries that they “install” a virtual museum gallery.

The archaeological quests for “Dig into History” were developed by the project’s panel of teacher advisors so that they would relate to key concepts in the nationally mandated social studies curriculum. Advisors who worked with us this year included: Paula Andries, Educational Coordinator for Hephzibah Children’s Association; Mary Cobb, Ray School Technology Coordinator; JoAnne Groshek, Bell School 6th Grade Teacher; Mia Henry, Director of Youth-Led Social Change, Chicago Freedom School; Lisa Perez, Area Library Coordinator, Department of Libraries and Information Services, Chicago Public Schools; and Mike Shea, Social Studies Teacher, Kenwood Academy High School.

Christie Thomas, Steven Lane, and Glen Biggus, all of e-CUIP, along with Flash Developer Sean York as consultant, were the extraordinarily talented team who joined Wendy Ennes in creating “Dig into History.” Geoff Emberling was also a key contributor, drawing upon his expertise as an archaeologist and museum professional to help us create authentic scenarios for the site. We invite you to visit the entire Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, Our History project at http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu, where you can experience this unique computer-learning opportunity that will be available to enrich teacher and student knowledge about ancient Mesopotamia for many years to come.

A Look to the Future

Late this spring, the National Endowment for the Humanities recognized Museum Education’s vision and commitment to online education by awarding the Oriental Institute a major new grant for Teaching the Middle East: A Resource for High School Educators. The goal of this two-year project is to provide the nations’ high school teachers with online resources that draw upon the best in humanities scholarship to help build student understanding of the ancient and contemporary Middle East. At present such materials are in short supply.

Wendy Ennes will be at the helm of this major online project, joined again by the staff of the e-CUIP Digital Library and also a new campus partner — the University of Chicago’s center for Middle Eastern studies. The project’s online materials will be developed by faculty members of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, with the involvement of a panel of teacher advisors from a cross-section of public and private schools throughout the City of Chicago. Our aim over the next two years will be to produce resources that enable high school educators to focus on key issues and events, shape meaningful lesson plans, and help their students examine stereotypes about the Middle East that abound in today’s society.
Behind the Scenes

Taking stock of all that has been accomplished this past year, I’d like to say how much Museum Education appreciates the encouragement, support, and involvement of Oriental Institute faculty, staff, and students, many of whom are mentioned in this report. A special thank you goes to Geoff Emberling, who provides assistance and support at every turn and has even presented some of our most engaging educational programming. Grateful thanks also go to the Museum Education and Family Program volunteers. None of our gallery-based public programs could have taken place without the time and talents of these men, women, and young people. A record of all their names appears in the Volunteer section of this Oriental Institute Annual Report.

More than 15,000 participants joined us for educational programming this year, a decrease from the record number of last year but more in line with general programming attendance during years without major gallery openings. This spring we sent a survey to the 5,000 members and friends who receive our quarterly program and events brochure. Still being returned, this survey is providing valuable information on ways we can meet visitor needs and interests now that our museum is fully open.

The creativity, spirit, and dedication of the department’s staff are what make everything happen in Museum Education. Wendy Ennes, Teacher Services and e-Learning Coordinator, is the key figure in all of our major grant-funded initiatives for teachers and students. Her vision, commitment, and drive, along with her grant-writing skills, dedication to excellence in educational programming, and her expertise in online teaching and learning, make her an invaluable asset to the entire Oriental Institute. Along with all her accomplishments described in this report, Wendy makes every effort to share the successes of Oriental Institute Museum Education with local, regional, and national education and museum communities. This year alone she made presentations about our Web-based resources for the Illinois Technology Conference for Educators in St. Charles, Illinois; the Illinois Council for the Social Studies Conference in Lisle, Illinois; the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) National School Summit in New Orleans, Louisiana; the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Conference in Washington, D.C.; the Museums and the Web Conference for educators worldwide, which was held in San Francisco in April 2007; and the American Association of Museums National Meeting in Chicago in May 2007. She also made several appearances on the Web, including presentations for TAPPED IN, an online resource funded by the National Science Foundation and Sun Microsystems, and she joined Christie Thomas of e-CUIP to present a online teacher training program in “Second Life,” a virtual world filled with a myriad of experiences that reach more than eight million “residents” from around the globe.

The contributions of Jessica Caracci, Education and Public Programs Assistant, are visible throughout this report. Jessica has been central to the development and implementation of all our programs for youth and families this past year, and her expertise as writer, editor, graphic designer, and program presenter have been crucial to
the success of all our grant-funded initiatives for families, teachers, and students. This year she also assumed a supervisory role for the department’s new internship program, a collaboration between the museum and the University of Chicago’s Master of Arts Program in the Social Sciences. Work-study student Jared Jeffers, and volunteer interns Elizabeth Beggs and Rupa Pillai, aided us in countless ways that ranged from office and programmatic support to materials development and exhibit evaluation. Clare Brody also joined us as an intern from the University of Chicago Laboratory School. Jessica’s guidance assured all these interns a meaningful and rewarding experience that combined assistance to our department with an introduction to the role museum education can play at a major university museum.

Jessica’s public relations, design, and organizational skills also make her “command central” in the Museum Education Office. She supervises the registration, confirmation, and financial record-keeping for all adult education, family, and guided tour programs. She also serves as our media specialist; writing and distributing our quarterly press packets and targeted press releases, as well as designing and supervising production for most of our educational and marketing materials. As with all her other responsibilities, Jessica handles these tasks with poise, grace, and a genuine concern for the needs and interests of others. Museum Education is truly fortunate to have such a creative, insightful, and multi-talented museum professional with us.

In the following section you will learn about the achievements of the Oriental Institute Volunteer Program, supervised by Volunteer Coordinators Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman, who are our colleagues in the Education Office. These extraordinarily gifted and dedicated women are continually inspired by the creativity and commitment of their remarkable corps of volunteers. Read on to see how the institute and the community have benefited from the work of our volunteers, and all that Cathy and Terry have helped them accomplish.
VOlunteer Program

Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman

Since the Oriental Institute Volunteer Program’s inception in 1966, its mission has always been to make ancient Near Eastern research, scholarship, and archaeological discoveries more accessible and engaging to the general public. Over the past four decades, museum docents have served as educators and good will ambassadors to visitors of all ages. This unique relationship is strengthened and enriched by the docent’s individual initiatives and motivations to understand and to expand their knowledge of the ancient Near East. Throughout the years, not only has a devoted cadre of museum docents served the Institute, but also in more recent years, the program has expanded to meet the changing needs of the Oriental Institute’s faculty and staff. Volunteer participation is institute wide, allowing individuals to express their interest in supporting the Oriental Institute’s ongoing operation.

This year marked the first opportunity to implement a comprehensive Volunteer Training Class for the docents and volunteers since the museum closed for renovation and climate control in 1996. After a dynamic recruitment campaign during the summer, the new volunteers, along with current and returning volunteers, participated in an extensive lecture series covering a wide range of topics. However, volunteer training does not end with the last training class; the Volunteer Program is an ongoing educational experience designed to engage and to inspire its participants as well as to foster support for individual research and interpretation. Beyond Volunteer Day lectures, one-on-one interactions with professors and access to the Docent Library, multiple opportunities exist to encourage intellectual curiosity among members. By dedicating themselves to the Oriental Institute’s mission, volunteers are able to connect to cultural histories and to discuss the modern relevance of scholars’ work, while successfully bringing ancient Near Eastern civilization to life for visitors of all ages.

Recruitment

The past year has been a very busy and productive period in the Volunteer Office. With all the museum galleries now reopened and the development of a structured training program, we turned our attention to implementing an active recruitment campaign.

Under the guidance of Debby Halpern, who researched and organized a marketing campaign which successfully met our recruitment goals, and Jessica Caracci, who creatively designed and placed informative advertisements promoting the Oriental Institute’s Volunteer Program, we were able to attract many eager recruits.

We were very pleased to welcome thirty-one new members into the volunteer corps this past year: Erin Baker, Susan Barzargan, Elizabeth Beggs, Irene Berkey, Roman Bilik, Marc Block, Louise Boyd, Maureen Brierton, Roberta Buchanan, Kristin Buskirk, Morgan Campbell, Bob Cantu, John DeWerd, Jennifer Douglass, Alexander Elwyn, Barbara Freidell, Jill Gosser, Erin Guinn-Villareal, Morton Jaffee, Larry Lissak, Brittany Luberda, Sherry McGuire, Jorge Montes, Alexander Muir, Rupa Pillai, Claire Pritchard, Gerladine Rowden, Ljubica Sarenac, Mae Simon, Ronald Wideman, and Kenneth Yu.

Volunteer Training Fall 2006

Fall 2006 saw the production of the first comprehensive volunteer training series since 1994. The classes were designed to cover a broad range of historical, cultural, and archaeological
background about the ancient Near East as well as provide interesting contrasts and comparisons between the cultures. The course provided newly recruited, current, and returning docents and volunteers with an extraordinary learning experience.

The twelve-session training series was a monumental organizational endeavor that included twenty separate lectures and gallery workshops led by Oriental Institute faculty, staff, and volunteers. Each session was professionally video taped through the services of the Chicago Media Initiatives Group at the University of Chicago. The DVDs produced will be an extremely valuable educational resource for all future volunteers and will add a dimension of professionalism to current training materials.

Upon completion of the training classes, all new museum docents along with those who have joined the program since 1994, were strongly encouraged to produce a “Highlights of the Collection” gallery tour outline. This assignment was designed to help clarify and consolidate a docent’s knowledge of the museum’s collection into a workable format, while developing his or her own individual tour. It has also proved to be an excellent tool to evaluate a docent’s preparation to serve as a tour guide. Many of the “Highlights” tours have been compiled into a binder, making them readily available to help other new volunteers develop their tours.

We would like to thank all of the presenters who gave outstanding lectures or demonstrated interactive touring techniques during each of the sessions. Kudos to: Joe Diamond, Peter Dorman, Geoff Emberling, Margaret Foorman, François Gaudard, McGuire Gibson, Tobin Hartnell, Debora Heard, Janet Johnson, W. Ray Johnson, Kathleen Mineck, Seth Richardson, Stephen Ritzel, Martha Roth, David Schloen, Mary Shea, Emily Teeter, Theo van den Hout, Bruce Williams, Karen Wilson, and Christopher Woods.

We would like to give special thanks to the numerous volunteers, who were so helpful with checking in participants and setting up refreshments for each event. In particular, we would like to recognize Dennis Kelley and Mary O'Shea, who took charge of these tasks and thus made our job much easier.

Tour Program

For over forty years, docent-led tours of the museum galleries have continued to engage and to delight visitors of all ages, because the Oriental Institute Museum Docents have been eager to share their knowledge and pride for the museum’s collection with all our guests. With the completion of the reinstallation and renovation project, the docents now have the opportunity to guide groups through the museum’s galleries without detours or construction zone interruptions. They are delighted to be able to finally present the artifacts in a cohesive and comprehensive manner.

Despite the passage of time, the role of a museum docent has not been significantly altered. Perhaps the original function of a museum docent can best be described in this brief excerpt from an article written by former museum docent and volunteer Ida De Pencier. She was in the first docent training class in 1966 and guided youngsters through the galleries for almost thirty years. Her insightful observations hold true to this day.

The Oriental Institute in establishing the Docent program is providing an outstanding service to a wide community. The Museum is a gem, but Docents are needed to interpret the displays, especially to younger visitors. To be sure, the artifacts are well chosen and charmingly displayed, but it is the human voice, explaining and describing, which gives emphasis to what the eyes see. Ida De Pencier, “Reflections of a Volunteer,” News & Notes, 1974.
This past year, many museum docents enjoyed informal study sessions that focused on the development of special interest tour topics. Docents independently researched an area of special interest and shared this knowledge with others in the group. These study sessions helped to enhance their own understanding of specific areas within the collection as well as to encourage unique approaches to engage audiences with interactive touring techniques.

Docents were also introduced to the new Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) this year. The ALD is a wonderful way to enhance a visitor’s museum experience. The new equipment will be available to any museum visitor who requests it at the reception desk. We are pleased to pro-actively reach out to the hearing impaired.

We are very proud to announce that 10,706 visitors enjoyed a docent-led tour this past year.

Docent Captain System

As the primary link between museum docents and the administrative staff, the Docent Captain System continues to play a pivotal role in the ongoing excellence and efficiency of the Volunteer Program. The captains’ supervision of the docents and tour staffing are vital components of the program. Captains are mentors for docents-in-training, helping to foster both a positive attitude and rewarding interaction among their group members. Our thanks and appreciation to Docent Captains: Myllicent Buchanan, Gabriele DaSilva, Joe Diamond, Teresa Hintzke, Dennis Kelley, Roy Miller, Donald Payne, Patrick Regnery, Stephen Ritzel, Lucie Sandel, Deloris Sanders, Pierangelo Taschini, Pramrudee Townsend, and Carole Yoshida for all their efforts on behalf of the Volunteer Program.

Docent Advisory Committee

The Docent Advisory Committee was formed two years ago to give the Volunteers a greater voice in the decision-making process of the Volunteer Program and Education Office. The Committee serves as an open forum for the docents and the volunteers to discuss concerns and to work on productive solutions for problems. We thank the committee for its comprehensive report, which focused on a variety of issues expressed by the docents and volunteers. This group’s initiatives have been a catalyst for improvement. Under the leadership of its executive members, Joe Diamond, Dennis Kelley, and Mary Shea, many of the concerns expressed in the initial July 2005 report have been successfully resolved over the past year.

We were very pleased to have Geoff Emberling, Oriental Institute Museum Director, become actively involved with the committee and its recommendations. His pragmatic and insightful observations helped direct the committee toward creative and innovative solutions to improve the Volunteer Program’s structure.

Volunteer Survey

A Volunteer Survey was developed in order to solicit relevant information from the Volunteer Corps. Oriental Institute Volunteers were asked to participate in this questionnaire to help identify their needs and expectations. In these changing times with shifting priorities, the information gleamed from this survey will be useful and provide valuable advice, when reviewing the program’s future objectives.
Docent Library
Margaret Foorman, Head Docent Librarian, has continued to expand and improve the outstanding collection of books, ephemera, and reference materials for volunteers. Her monthly updates in the Volunteer Voice highlight new additions to the library and offer suggested readings to enhance members’ knowledge and understanding of the ancient Near East. Through numerous and generous donations from faculty, staff, and volunteers, along with many new purchases, the Docent Library’s collection continues to thrive both as an educational resource and a valuable research archive. Our thanks also to Sandra Jacobsohn for assisting Margaret with the library’s ongoing maintenance.

Our guest speaker for January Volunteer Day was Ray Tindel, who reminisced about his tenure as the Oriental Institute Registrar and the many different staff members and volunteers with whom he has worked over the years. It was a rare opportunity to hear how registration methods have changed as well as to see many of the smaller pieces of registered objects stored in the basement. Ray explains some of these rare sherds as Helen McDonald, Margaret Foorman, and Mary Shea listen. Photo by Wendy Ennes

April Volunteer Day featured Clemens Reichel who gave a full-day seminar on Mesopotamia. The morning lecture featured a revisit to the Mesopotamian Gallery, while the afternoon program was an interactive workshop on building a tour narrative. The two sessions were designed to give the volunteers a fresh perspective on how to effectively work with the museum collection. Photo by Terry Friedman

Gil Stein, Oriental Institute Director, was our guest speaker for June Volunteer Day. Gil spoke about the Ubaid period in Mesopotamian history. At the conclusion of the program docents and volunteers joined Gil in the Mesopotamian Gallery for a closer look at the Ubaid objects. Photo by Terry Friedman
Our thanks to Mary Shea for contributing her book review of *How Writing Came About* by Denise Schmandt-Besserat to the June Volunteer Voice. We hope to continue to offer a book review as a quarterly feature in our monthly newsletter.

We were pleased to add the entire DVD series from the Fall 2006 Training Class to the library’s reference materials. The addition of these lectures in digital format gives both new and current volunteers an opportunity to experience the sessions from a fresh, first-hand perspective. We look forward to incorporating these DVDs into future volunteer training classes.

**Volunteer Days**

Volunteer Day programming continues to provide an outstanding educational opportunity for all Oriental Institute docents and volunteers. These monthly educational seminars blend current research and discoveries with broader historical and cultural overviews to expand everyone’s knowledge of the ancient Near East. These informative lectures and gallery workshops have been at the heart of the program’s longevity and success. They have helped to sustain a high level of interest and participation among the volunteers and have fostered an atmosphere conducive to learning and exploring new interpretations. Our thanks and appreciation to presenters, Steve Beaudoin, John Brinkman, John Larson, Adam Lubin, Clemens Reichel, Robert Ritner, Gil Stein, Ray Tindel, and Tanya Treptow, for their outstanding programs.

**Evacuation Drill**

During June’s Volunteer Day, the Oriental Institute had an evacuation drill under the guidance of Adam Lubin, Head of Security and Visitor Services. Docents and volunteers were instructed to position themselves throughout the galleries before the practice. The entire drill lasted only a few minutes, but all the participants including the Oriental Institute’s faculty and staff members appreciated the opportunity to take part in this important exercise. The Institute and the Office of Security and Visitor Services plans to conduct this drill on an annual basis as a precautionary measure for everyone’s safety.

**Summer Field Trip**

On July 10th, volunteers gathered at The Field Museum to view Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs. This spectacular exhibit showcased some of the priceless treasures from the tombs of Tutankhamun and his royal ancestors. We were very pleased to have Emily Teeter join us on this special field trip. Her wealth of knowledge and...
insightful comments brought these magnificent artifacts to life.

December Volunteer Day and Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

As an annual tradition, faculty, staff, and volunteers gather to enjoy a festive holiday celebration for December Volunteer Day. This popular program includes a guest speaker, the introduction of new volunteers, and the volunteer recognition ceremony. The program culminates with a lovely holiday luncheon at the Quadrangle Club. This year’s special event took place on Monday, December 4.

Our guest speaker for this year’s program was John Larson, who gave a brilliant slide presentation entitled “The Breasted Family and King Tut’s Tomb: Words and Pictures from the Oriental Institute Archives.” John’s fascinating discussion, along with the beautifully chosen archival photographs, truly brought to life James Henry Breasted, his family, and the extraordinary time in which they lived.

This year the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony was divided into two sections: one for the entire Volunteer Program and one for those individuals with several years of service.

The year 2006 marked an important turning point for the Volunteer Program as it celebrated its fortieth anniversary. Although its founder, Carolyn Livingood, passed away in 1994, we are very fortunate to still have three former volunteer coordinators: Carlotta Maher, Peggy Grant, and Janet Helman, as advisors and mentors. Their hard work, determination, and collective vision has served as a driving force in the continued development of the Oriental Institute’s Volunteer Program as it stands today. In their speeches at the ceremony, each one of these amazing ladies shared their memories and reminisced about the past four decades.

Eleven individuals were recognized for their distinguished support and loyal commitment to the Oriental Institute and the museum. Their combined years of service represent a total of 220 years! Congratulations to this year’s Recognition Award Recipients:

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<td>Cissy Haas, Carlotta Maher, O. J. Sopranos</td>
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Congratulations again to all the Recognition Award recipients and to all the volunteers, who have given an extraordinary year of service to the Oriental Institute.

This December Volunteer Day Program would not have been possible without the support and cooperation of many people. We want to express our appreciation to:

- Gil Stein and the Office of the Director of the Oriental Institute for underwriting the annual holiday luncheon for the Docents, Faculty, Staff, and Volunteers.
- Monica Witczak, Development Director, for awarding complimentary memberships to the Volunteer Recognition Award recipients.
- Wendy Ennes for photographing this very special occasion.
- Denise Browning for her assistance with the recognition awards and gift selection.
- Stephen Ritzel for helping with the parking validation for the Volunteers.
- Olivia Boyd for her technical assistance with the audio-visual aspect of the program.
- Gabriele DaSilva and Semra Prescott, who were so helpful with the setup and the cleanup of the morning coffee reception.
- Chris Nogulich and the Quadrangle Club staff for preparing and serving another wonderful holiday luncheon.
- Jessica Caracci for designing the beautiful certificates for the recognition award recipients.

Outreach on the Move

The Outreach Program has continued to delight and engage audiences of all ages. Outreach has grown in popularity over the past eleven years as it continues to generate a loyal following in schools as well as attract new audiences, who enjoy this alternative “in-house field trip” experience. From Chicago’s north side to its southwest and western suburbs, Oriental Institute Volunteers have been on the move taking the “show on the road.” We were pleased to make our annual visit to James Hart Millennium School in Homewood and to Springbrook Elementary School in Naperville, Illinois. Audiences on the north side were also thrilled to meet our Outreach team at the Lake Shore Retirement Health Center and at the Sutlzer Public Library. For over a decade, students, educators, parents, and adults have continued to give the program rave reviews. This year 390 participants enjoyed the advantage of an outreach visit.
Interns and Staff Support

We were very fortunate this past academic year to have Elizabeth Beggs and Rupa Pillai as interns in the Volunteer and Education Offices. From administrative tasks to assisting on special projects, all who worked with them appreciated their energetic spirit and excellent work. Throughout this past year their numerous contributions have helped to enhance and to support many vital areas of the Volunteer Program’s ongoing operation.

We are delighted to welcome Elizabeth Kisor and Alyssa Price as our summer interns. We look forward to working with them on many exciting and challenging projects throughout the next few months.

We would also like to thank our colleagues in Museum Education for their unwavering support and prudent advice throughout this past year: Jessica Caracci, Education Programs Assistant; Carole Krucoff, Head of Education and Public Programs; and Wendy Ennes, Teachers’ Services and Family Project Coordinator. In an environment filled with activity and interruptions, their calm demeanor and sense of humor foster a congenial and productive atmosphere.

A special note of thanks to Jessica Caracci whose incredible organization and communication skills are at the very core of the program’s success. Her patience and attention to detail are greatly appreciated by everyone.

In Memoriam

The Volunteer Program lost three loyal friends and supporters of the Oriental Institute: Lillian Cropsey, Dr. Larry Scheff, and Peggy Wick. These individuals exemplified the essence of an ideal volunteer. Each devoted decades of time to share their unique talents and skills to help further the goals and mission of the Oriental Institute. We will greatly miss these three remarkable people and we are thankful that they spent a substantial portion of their volunteer time with us.

Reflections

Building on over forty years of expansion and growth, the Volunteer Program has attempted to meet the many challenges and opportunities in a changing world through a plurality of initiatives. Throughout its forty-year history, the program has been able to expand to offer other options for volunteer service and support within the museum and the Oriental Institute itself. Since 1966 the Volunteer Corps has grown to over 150 people, who form a community of uniquely talented individuals; all of whom are devoted to serving the Institute and to enriching its mission. We thank them for their numerous past and present contributions and look forward to their future support. This year the Oriental Institute Docents and Volunteers have demonstrated their commitment by contributing over 12,000 hours of service.

Our thanks and appreciation to our summer intern Alyssa Price for her assistance and patience with the production of this year’s Annual Report.
Honorary Volunteers-at-Large

Carol Randel
Elizabeth Sonnenschein

Volunteers: Class of 2006/2007

Erin Baker
Susan Barzargan
Elizabeth Beggs

Irene Berkey
Roman Bilik
Marc Block

Louise Boyd
Maureen Brierton
Roberta Buchanan

Kristin Buskirk
Morgan Campbell
Bob Cantu

John DeWerd
Jennifer Douglass
Alexander Elwyn

Barbara Freidell
Jill Gossler
Erin Guinn-Villarel

Morton Jaffee
Larry Lissak
Brittany Luberda

Sherry McGuire
Jorge Montes
Alexander Muir

Rupa Pillai
Claire Pritchard
Gerladine Rowden

Ljubica Sarenac
Mae Simon
Ronald Wideman

Kenneth Yu

Advisers to the Volunteer Program

Peggy Grant
Janet Helman
Carlotta Maher

Volunteer Program Consultant

Shel Newman

Volunteers Emeritus

Debbie Aliber
Charlotte Collier
Lilian Cropsey†

Erl Dordal
Patty Dunkel
Mary D’Ouville†

Bettie Dwinell
Carol Green
Mary Grimshaw

Cissy Haas
Alice James
Mary Jo Khuri

Nina Longley
Jo Lucas
Masako Matsumoto

Dorothy Mozinski
Janet Russell
Larry Scheff†

Peggy Wick†

Docent Library - Head Librarian

Margaret Foorman

Library Committee

Sandra Jacobsohn
Deloris Sanders
Mary Shea

Docent Advisory Committee Executive Board

Joe Diamond
Dennis Kelly
Mary Shea

Museum Docents

John Aldrin
Sylvia Aldrin
Douglas Baldwin

Nancy Baum
Susan Bazargan
Irene Berkey

Christel Betz
Rebecca Binkley
Dorothy Blindt

Maureen Brierton
Mylllicent Buchanan
Roberta Buchanan

Andrew Buncis
Kristin Buskirk
Gabriella Cohen

David Covill
Joan Curry
Gabrielle Da Silva

John DeWerd
Joe Diamond
Jennifer Douglass

Sam Dreessen
Djanie Edwards
Mary Finn

Margaret Foorman
Barbara Freidell
Joan Friedmann

Dario Giacomoni
C. Azure Gillman
Ruth Goldman

Louise Golland
Anita Greenberg
Debby Halpern

Ira Hardman
Janet Helman
Lee Herbst

Teresa Hintzke
Morton Jaffee
Dennis Kelley

Henriette Klawans
Lo Luong Lo
Margaret Manteufel

Pat McLaughlin
Sherry McGuire
Robert McGuiness

Roy Miller
Kathy Mineck
Alexander Muir

Alice Mulberry
Austin O’Malley
Mary O’Shea

Nancy Patterson
Denise Paul
Donald Payne

Kitty Picken
Rita Picken
Diane Posner

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Volunteer Program

Semra Prescott Claire Pritchard Melissa Ratkovich
David Ray Patrick Regnery Stephen Ritzel
Gerladine Rowden Lucie Sandel Deloris Sanders
Sarah Sapperstein Larry Scheff† Joy Schochet
Anne Schumacher Mary Shea Daila Shefner
Mae Simon Toni Smith Bernadette Strnad
Pierangelo Taschini Mari Terman Karen Terras
Pramerudee Townsend Arveal Turner Ronald Wideman
Inge Winer Carole Yoshida Kemmeth Yu

Volunteer Interns
Elizabeth Beggs Elizabeth Kizior (summer) Rupa Pillai
Alyssa Price (summer)

Work Study Intern
Jared Jeffers

Museum Archives
Hazel Cramer Peggy Grant Adam Hemmings
Patricia Hume Sandra Jacobsohn Roberta Kovitz
Bryan Moles Lillian Schwartz Robert Wagner
Carole Yoshida

Museum Registration
Joan Barghusen Gretel Braidwood Elizabeth Davidson
Joe Diamond Janet Helman Barbara Levin
Daila Shefner Toni Smith Jim Sopranos
Ray Tindel

Suq
Muriel Brauer Peggy Grant Marda Gross
Norma van der Meulen

Suq Jewelry Designer
Norma van der Meulen

Persepolis Tablets
Irene Glasner Louise Golland

Computer Lab
Alexander Elwyn

CAMEL Lab
Ron Wideman

Demotic Dictionary
Verena Lepper Janelle Pisarik

Diyala Project
George Sundell Karen Terras

Epigraphic Survey and Chicago House
Mary Grimshaw Carlotta Maher Crennan Ray
David Ray

Hacinebi Excavations
Irene Glassner
Volunteer Program

Hamoukar Project
Karen Terras

Iraq Museum Database
Muhammad Abdallah

Tell Brak
Serra Jackman
Sonia Gollance

Romancing the Past: 2006
Gala Committee
Gretel Braidwood
Andrea Dudek
Margaret Foorman
Debby Halpern
Janet Helman
Carlotta Maher
Kitty Picken
Rita Picken
Mary Shea

Behind the Scenes
Jo Lucas
Mary O’Shea
Agnes Zellner

Set-up
Djannie Edwards

Registration and Greeting
Catherine Dueñas
Sarah Sapperstein
Mae Thornburgh

Museum Education and Family Programs Volunteers
Rozenn Bailleul-LeSeur
Erin Baker
Elizabeth Beggs
Christel Betz
Rebecca Binkley
Myllicent Buchanan
Andrew Buncis
Bob Cantu
Joan Curry
Gabriele Da Silva
Joe Diamond
Stephen Esposito
Margaret Foorman
Dario Giacomoni
Louise Golland
Erin Guinn-Villareal
Debby Halpern
Katharyn Hanson
Ira Hardman
Teresa Hintzke
Tom Hunter
Dennis Kelley
Robert McGuinness
Sherry McGuire
Roy Miller
Kathy Mineck
Mary O’Shea
Nancy Patterson
Donald Payne
Rupa Pillai
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Diane Posner
Patrick Regnery
Stephen Ritzel
Lucie Sandel
Deloris Sanders
Joy Schochet
Anne Schumacher
Mary Shea
Toni Smith
Bernadette Strnad
Pierangelo Taschini
Mari Terman
Inge Winer
Carole Yoshida

Junior Volunteers
Clare Brody
Kristina Cooper
Cameron Kelley

Outreach Docents and Volunteers
Rebecca Binkley
Myllicent Buchanan
Andrew Buncis
Janet Calkins
John DeWerd
Joe Diamond
Bettie Dwinnell
Bill and Terry Gillespie
Ira Hardman
Robert McGuiness
Caryl Mikrut
Roy Miller
Kathy Mineck
Mary O’Shea
Stephen Ritzel
Larry Scheff†
Joy Schochet
Anne Schumacher
Carole Yoshida
Agnes Zellner

††