

Janina Monkutė Marks

This past year we were greatly saddened by the death of our friend Janina Marks, age 87, on November 13, 2010. Janina had been a member of the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee since 1995, after having been a supporter for the previous twenty years.

Janina had a lifelong love of archaeology and especially art, as reflected not only in her engagement with the Oriental Institute, but also by own work as an artist. She was a nationally and internationally exhibited artist, best known for weaving large tapestries initially of Lithuanian folk themes and subsequently drawing from her American life experience after immigrating to Chicago in 1949. Her participation and support of the Oriental Institute and other art and cultural institutions in Chicago and beyond are a testament to her belief in giving back to her community. Ten years ago, Janina founded the first nonprofit museum, a textile museum, in her native Lithuania — the Janina Monkutė-Marks Museum Gallery in Kėdainiai.

