

MEMBERSHIP

Sarah Sapperstein and Maeve Reed

Publications

With the assistance and guidance of the Publications Office, the Membership Office continued to publish *News & Notes* on a quarterly basis. The Fall 2008 issue focused on the Institute building at the corner of 58th Street and University Avenue, examining some of its Near Eastern architectural and artistic features, and celebrated the opening of the Kipper Family Archaeology Discovery Center, an interactive dig experience for children at the Oriental Institute. In the Winter 2008 issue, Members were introduced to Kuttamuwa's stela, excavated by the Neubauer Expedition to Zincirli, Turkey. Spring 2009 featured an exclusive look at the special exhibit *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt* with a special article by exhibit curator and Coordinator of Special Exhibits, Emily Teeter. In Summer 2009, we continued to celebrate Meresamun with the unveiling of a 3-D graphic reconstruction and drawings of her face by forensic artists.

Many thanks are owed to Tom Urban and Leslie Schramer in the Oriental Institute Publications Office for their enduring patience, diligence, and kindness in coordinating publication projects for Members and supporters over the past year.

Events

We began the fiscal year with an Associate Members' event: *An Evening with Conservation*. Members were given an up-close-and-personal look at Oriental Institute conservation work in the Archives, the Museum, and the Laboratory by our wonderful conservation team.

In October, our Breasted Society Members enjoyed a presentation on "Beer and Brewing in Ancient Mesopotamia" by Kathy Mineck, Ph.D. candidate and contributor to the *Chicago Hittite Dictionary*. Members tasted sample beers brewed by Kathy and served in replica Mesopotamian-style cups made especially for the event.

In February, we welcomed 225 Members and friends to the opening of the special exhibit *The Life of Meresamun: A Temple Singer in Ancient Egypt*. Emily Teeter gave an in-depth presentation on Meresamun's mummy, her life, and the everyday artifacts that would have been used by her contemporaries. Dr. Michael Vannier, radiologist at the University of Chicago Medical Center, gave an illuminating talk explaining the results of a recent CT scan of Meresamun's mummy. Our guests then got to visit Meresamun herself in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Special Exhibits Gallery, and enjoyed a reception in the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery.

In May, the Oriental Institute celebrated its 90th Jubilee Gala. The event honored Rita Picken, a Life Member of the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee, Oriental Institute volunteer for over thirty years, and dear friend. Over 230 people attended the formal evening with cocktails, silent auction, and a seated dinner in the Museum galleries. A special thank-you to Kaye Oberhausen, Special Events Coordinator and Development Associate, the Oriental Institute Events Committee, and the many volunteers whose hard work made this event possible.

We began our Members' Lecture series in November this year with a lecture by Mark Lehner, director of the Giza Plateau Mapping Project, on "Settlement Archaeology at Giza." Due to travel complications, December's scheduled Members' Lecture by John Curtis of the British Museum

was replaced with a presentation by Elizabeth Stone of Stony Brook University on the state of looting of antiquities sites in Iraq. I would like to extend a special thank-you to Elizabeth and our Members for their flexibility and understanding. January brought Augusta McMahon of the University of Cambridge to talk about her fascinating work on death at Tell Brak, Syria. In February we were visited by Michael Jones, Director of the American Research Center in Egypt, Cairo, who spoke on ARCE's work in Roman-era Luxor. In March, the inaugural Braidwood Visiting Scholar Naomi Miller of the University of Pennsylvania Museum presented a lecture on Gordion, Turkey. In April, we were pleased to co-sponsor a lecture by Archaeological Institute of America speaker Al Leonard of the University of Arizona, who presented on Canaanite art of the late Bronze Age. We continued into May with a presentation on crusades in the Eastern Mediterranean by Scott Redford of Koç University, Turkey, co-sponsored by the University of Chicago Department of Art History. The Members' Lecture series came to a close in June with a presentation by the Oriental Institute's own Ray Johnson, Director of the Epigraphic Survey at Chicago House, who spoke of the challenges faced by the project and antiquities alike as Luxor undergoes a major urban renovation.

With the help of Irving Birkner and the University of Chicago Alumni Association, our January and March 2009 Members' Lectures were recorded (audio and video) and posted online. Members who are unable to join us on Wednesdays can now experience these lectures from home; we look forward to recording more lectures in the future. Visit us online at <https://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/member/events/> and click "Past Events" to watch or listen online. As always, we are pleased to have access to so many wonderful and willing lecturers and hope you will join us again for our 2009–2010 lecture season. These lectures are free and open to the public. Visit <http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/members/events> for more information.

Travel

In August, over forty-five Members and friends spent the day with Emily Teeter at the Indianapolis Museum of Art to see *To Live Forever: Egyptian Treasures*, a traveling exhibit from the Brooklyn Museum. Emily presented a lecture on "Deciphering Egyptian Art," discussing the aesthetics and interpretation of Egyptian art as both art and artifact. Oriental Institute Members were joined on this trip by members of the Chicago Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt, the Chicago Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America, the South Suburban Archaeological Society of Illinois, and the Chicago Archaeological Society. Thanks to all these organizations for their willingness to share this opportunity with their members.

In November 2008, thirty Members joined Mark Garrison of Trinity University at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco to explore the exhibit *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures* from the National Museum, Kabul. Garrison gave an illuminating lecture on the archaeological history of the Afghan region and its cultural influences. Members were able to enjoy the exhibit, which included many gold artifacts on display in the United States for the first time, as well as other sites in and around the city during the weekend trip.

In addition to events in the United States, travel plans for late 2009 and 2010 are currently underway. Nadine Moeller, Assistant Professor of Egyptian Archaeology at the Oriental Institute and director of excavations at Tell Edfu, will lead a travel program in November 2009. Entitled *Splendors of the Nile*, this trip is affectionately known as "Egypt 101" and will be an overview of archaeological Egypt. Members will visit some of the most well-known and important sites from Cairo to Luxor and take a seven-day cruise on the Nile. We have two international travel

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opportunities in the works for 2010; Abbas Alizadeh will be leading a long-awaited trip to Iran in April 2010 and Yorke Rowan will be leading a trip to Israel in fall 2010.

Oriental Institute travel programs are unique in that our passengers experience exclusive site visits and on-site learning privileges not enjoyed by other institutions or travel groups. Our Members learn directly from some of the most eminent scholars in the world, at sites the Oriental Institute has been working on and researching for almost a century. To view calendars and information on upcoming travel programs, visit <http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/members/events>.

Marketing and Communications

The Oriental Institute continues the effort to expand Membership and the Annul Fund through marketing opportunities. The endeavors of Emily Teeter as our lead marketing officer continue to pay off, with stronger than ever press coverage of our Meresamun special exhibit. The Oriental Institute has partnered with the Office of Philanthropic Affairs at the University of Chicago to identify untapped University of Chicago communities who may not have experienced the Oriental Institute Museum or programs. In 2008, the Membership Office sent out the first edition of *E-Tablet*, a monthly e-newsletter for Members. *E-Tablet* announces and provides updates for events, travel programs, and other Member opportunities, as well as links to news coverage. *E-Tablet* was made possible by the hard work of Kaye Oberhausen, John Sanders, and the Education Office. If you haven't already, please subscribe to this once-a-month e-mail by visiting us online at <http://oi.uchicago.edu>. At the bottom of the page, enter your name and e-mail address and hit the "subscribe" button.

Our 2009 Membership Calendar was a great success, featuring fourteen images from the first excavations and expeditions by James Henry Breasted in the early 1900s. Thank you to the many Institute faculty and staff who submitted images, dates, and programs for inclusion.

Lastly, a new Oriental Institute Visitor's Guide was created and distributed in the building this summer. This brochure includes membership information and a membership return envelope, so all Museum visitors have the opportunity to join the Oriental Institute.

Benefits and Notes

In addition to the benefits already enjoyed by our Members, we are pleased to announce that the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) program, accessible to our Associate and Breasted Society Members, has expanded to include over 350 institutions across North America and several select institutions in Central America. Any Associate or Breasted Society Member needs only to present their membership card with the "North American Reciprocal" gold label on it to enjoy the benefits of a NARM institution's membership during their visit. For more information about this program and for a list of participating institutions, please contact the Membership Office, or visit us online at <http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/>.

Thanks to the hard work of our IT team, both at the Oriental Institute and the University of Chicago, many Members continue to sign up and renew their memberships online at <http://oi.uchicago.edu/getinvolved/member>; online renewal is secure and easy to use. As always, we continue to accept gifts, renewals, and gift memberships by phone with credit card, by mail, e-mail, and fax. Please use the Membership Office e-mail, oi-membership@uchicago.edu, for all e-mail correspondence.

We are so appreciative of our Member and Donor communities who recognize the importance of the work of the Oriental Institute. We quite simply could not continue the work we are doing without your generosity and support, whether it's your advocacy, involvement, financial contribution, or participation. Thank you for all you do.

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A Note from Sarah Sapperstein: As the fiscal year draws to a close, I am preparing for my departure as Membership Coordinator. My new position as Assistant Director of Chicago and Central States Alumni Relations will keep me in touch with many of our Members who are Alumni of the University of Chicago. It has been the utmost honor and pleasure for me to be able to work in this office, with the scholars and faculty of the Oriental Institute, and with the wonderful membership and supporter communities that allow this place to do the important work it accomplishes each year. Thank you all for a wonderful two and a half years here. It's been a pleasure serving you and working with you. Best wishes to one and all.

A Note from Maeve Reed: As of July, 2009, I have been hired as the new Oriental Institute Membership Coordinator. I would like to thank Gil Stein and Steve Camp for this opportunity and I look forward to meeting our Members at upcoming events. Additionally, special thanks are due to Maria Krasinski, Brittany Lubarda, and Kaye Oberhausen for managing the Membership Office in the interim and for the invaluable training they have given me.
