On July 28, 2012, the Oriental Institute lost a dear friend and valued colleague. Eleanor Guralnick, who served as a Research Associate with the Institute, passed away in Chicago. Since 2006, Eleanor focused her efforts at the Institute on the Khorsabad Relief Project, working to identify, clean, photograph, and catalog carved stone relief fragments from King Sargon II’s palace at Khorsabad. Using her imagination combined with diligent scholarship, Eleanor pieced together many fragments to form an enormous, rich portrait of a vanished civilization. Her work on the Khorsabad reliefs formed the basis of many published papers on topics ranging from use of color to studies on detailed elements as well as new drawings of the reliefs. Along with her scholarly articles, Eleanor edited three books: The Ancient Eastern Mediterranean, Sardis: Twenty-seven Years of Discovery, and Vikings in the West.

A University of Chicago alumna, Eleanor was awarded her master’s degree in art history in 1967 and in 1970 earned her PhD in classical art and archaeology with a specialization in Near Eastern art. During her student days at University of Chicago, she was a recipient of a Ryerson Scholarship, a Ryerson Fellowship for Travel, and a University Scholarship. Eleanor was actively engaged with the Archaeological Institute of America at both the local and national society levels. She held every possible office with the Chicago Society of the AIA and built the organization to become a model for outreach to both adults and children. At the national level, Eleanor also served as AIA General Trustee and chaired the Regional Symposia Committee. Her work on behalf of the AIA was recognized with that organization’s prestigious Martha and Artemis Joukowsky Distinguished Service Award in 2004.

All of us at the Oriental Institute count ourselves as fortunate to have worked with Eleanor. We will remember her with respect for her dedication and important contributions to understanding the art, archaeology, and history of the ancient Near East. Eleanor was our friend and we will miss her.