



**THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

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Cover and overleaf illustration: *Eastern stairway relief and columns of the Apadana at Persepolis. Herzfeld Expedition, 1933 (D. 13302)*

The pages that divide the sections of this year's report feature images from the special exhibit "Persepolis: Images of an Empire," on view in the Marshall and Doris Holleb Family Gallery for Special Exhibits, October 11, 2015, through September 3, 2017. See Ernst E. Herzfeld and Erich F. Schmidt, directors of the Oriental Institute's archaeological expedition to Persepolis, on page 10.

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INTRODUCTION

Gil J. Stein

I am happy to share with you the *Oriental Institute's Annual Report* for 2015–2016. The Oriental Institute has continued and expanded its archaeological and textual research despite the uncertainty, strife, and upheaval across the Middle East in Syria, Iraq, Turkey, the Palestinian Territories, Egypt, and Afghanistan. The cultural heritage of these areas remains under grave threat, lending ever greater urgency to our work of exploration and preservation. The Institute's work of discovery continues to have a major impact in the exploration and preservation of ancient Near Eastern civilizations and the communication of this knowledge to the scholarly and general public.

Our Hittite Dictionary continues its work under the editorship of Theo van den Hout and Petra Goedegebuure; at the same time, even though the Chicago Demotic Dictionary is officially “finished,” editors Janet Johnson and Brian Muhs continue to make improvements on this important lexicographic resource. In Egypt, our Epigraphic Survey, under the able direction of Ray Johnson, has transitioned to fully digital recording of the monuments of Luxor and Medinet Habu.

Our ongoing archaeological excavations in Egypt (Edfu and Giza), Iraq (Surezha), Jordan (the Badia Research Project), in the Palestinian Territories (Mafjar/Jericho), and Turkey (Zincirli, Çadır, Kerkenes) continue to make new discoveries across the millennia from the Neolithic through the Islamic periods. The Galilee Prehistory Project under Yorke Rowan and Morag Kersel is finishing its excavations at Marj Rabbah and will be shifting its focus to a new site as part of a long-range plan to explore the full range of Chalcolithic settlement types in northern Israel. At the same time, we have inaugurated a new field project at Dendara in Egypt as the “sister city” to Tell Edfu, in an innovative multi-site project — co-directed by Nadine Moeller and Gregory Marouard — to explore ancient Egyptian urbanism.

The Oriental Institute has been active in heritage preservation work. The Oriental Institute-National Museum of Afghanistan partnership continues its work in Kabul on the inventory of the holdings of the Kabul Museum while training their staff of conservators and curators. Emily Hammer and her colleagues in our CAMEL Lab have been making great progress in using remote sensing to document the full range of archaeological sites in Afghanistan, while assessing the degree and date of looting activities at these ancient settlements. The Oriental Institute has also worked with Fiona Rose-Greenland of the University of Chicago Neubauer Collegium's “Past for Sale” program on an innovative new project (MANTIS) to develop quantitative estimates of the volume of looting from archaeological sites in Syria.

Finally, our Museum is undertaking the ambitious Gallery Enhancements program (also known as the “Gilgamesh Project” in honor of our anonymous donor). This will install over seventy new display cases, along with upgrades to the electrical infrastructure, re-painting, and cleaning of the stonework in the galleries.

Taken together, this is an impressive range of programs by the talented faculty, research associates, and staff of the Oriental Institute. We are proud to convey this information to our community of members and supporters, without whom none of this would be possible. Thank you for being our partners in discovery.

IN MEMORIAM

MARGARET H. GRANT

On Wednesday, August 3, 2016, Margaret (Peggy) Grant passed away at the age of 98. Her affiliation with the Chicago neighborhood of Hyde Park was a central part of her life. She had been a resident as a teenager attending the University of Chicago High School and moved back for the rest of her life in 1952 when her husband joined the University of Chicago Divinity School Faculty. Peggy was born Margaret Huntington Horton in Middletown, Connecticut, on December 3, 1917. Her father, Douglas Horton, became Pastor of the United Church of Hyde Park. He subsequently became the General Secretary of the Congregational Church and later Dean of the Harvard Divinity School.



Peggy graduated from Wellesley College in the class of 1939 and then obtained an MA in philosophy from Columbia University. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert McQueen Grant, Carl Darling Buck Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Humanities at the University of Chicago, whom she married in 1940.

Peggy was a thirty-year volunteer at the Oriental Institute including Volunteer Director for a number of years. One of her greatest accomplishments in this role was initiating a museum education program, for which she hired Joan Barghusen to head the department. Fellow volunteers remember her as the most efficient and organized person imaginable and more than anyone else, she was responsible for the smooth way the docents functioned and the great popularity of our tours with school groups. Due to her many accomplishments and her generosity she became the third honoree of the Oriental Institute's James Breasted Award since its inception.

Peggy had a long-term relationship with Chicago's St. Paul and the Redeemer Episcopal Church where she had been director of the Sunday School. Some of her other interests included writing, acting, and directing in University of Chicago Service League and Hyde Park Neighborhood plays, studying hieroglyphs, and attending the opera and symphony. She was outgoing and enjoyed a wide circle of friends. At Montgomery Place, the retirement home she moved to in her nineties, she was active in the poetry club and painting, and participated in the French Table and the German Table.

Randolph, New Hampshire, was the other important location in her life. She summered in her family compound there for more than seventy years. She always welcomed anyone of any age who came to her door. In the Randolph community she was active in the Randolph Mountain Club, where she was Camps Supervisor, Board Member, and Vice-President. She was a lifelong believer in exercise and swam laps every morning until her mid-nineties. She was an active hiker and almost every hiker in Randolph had hiked with her. She is survived by four children, Douglas Grant, Peter Grant, Susan Slattery, and James Snyder-Grant, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Additional survivors include her three siblings, Alan Horton, Alice Tibbetts, and Elizabeth Breunig, fourteen nieces and nephews, and twenty-four grandnieces and grandnephews. She will be greatly missed by her friends and family here at the Oriental Institute.

HOWARD G. HAAS



Last June, our dear friend and Visiting Committee Member, Howard Haas, passed away at the age of 92. Howard became a friend of the Oriental Institute through his brother, Visiting Committee Member Bud Haas, after reading James Henry Breasted's biography. Like Breasted, Howard was a born leader who was always ready for a challenge: first as a World War II fighter pilot in the U.S. Airforce where he faced many life-threatening situations; then later in life when he worked his way up from cost accountant to president and CEO of Sealy, where he led the company to great success as the most renowned mattress company in the business; and finally by establishing the Practice in Business Leadership course here at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, in which he trained future CEOs.

A first lieutenant in the US Air Force during World War II, Howard flew more than fifty missions over Axis-occupied Europe, after which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, in addition to receiving the French Legion of Honor. Following his career in the Air Force, Howard joined Sealy in 1956 as sales manager. As he moved up at Sealy, Howard was known for arriving a day ahead of his scheduled factory visits to conduct an unofficial tour of the factory floor, speaking with individual workers and viewing the process for himself. This led to significant improvements in production, and "to unprecedented growth and renown in the home furnishings industry," placing Sealy as the most recognized brand in the industry.

After reading James Henry Breasted's biography, Howard found a kindred leader with a clear vision and innovative ideas about how to realize that vision. He admired Breasted for shifting the focus regarding the origins of civilization from the Classical world to the Middle East. Howard held the Oriental Institute and Breasted in high regard and very much felt he was honoring his brother Bud's legacy and commitment to the Oriental Institute as a member of the Visiting Committee.

It has been a privilege to have Howard's leadership on our Visiting Committee for the past eighteen years. Over the years many at the Oriental Institute benefitted greatly from Howard's experience, advice, and friendship. He will be sorely missed.

DORIS B. HOLLEB

This past September we lost our dear friend Doris B. Holleb. Doris was a member of the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee since 1973, a member of the Division of the Humanities Visiting Committee, and was a faculty member at the University of Chicago since 1966, most recently as a Professorial Lecturer Emerita in Social Sciences and Geographical Studies. Doris and her late husband, Marshall, were loyal supporters of the Oriental Institute Museum and special exhibits, the gallery of which bears their name as the Doris and Marshall Holleb Special Exhibits Gallery.



Doris was also a Trustee of the Field Museum for over seven years and extended her support of special exhibits programming there as a member of their Exhibition Committee. She was an economist and urban planning consultant whose books and articles focused primarily on issues of housing, economic development, poverty, and metropolitan planning. Over the years, she was active in public affairs, serving on several commissions both in the United States and abroad. These include three Presidential appointments (with Senate confirmation) as a member of the National Council on the Humanities, a Director of the Inter-American Foundation, and a member of the President's Advisory Committee of the White House Conference on Balanced National Growth and Economic Development.

It has been a pleasure for those of us who knew Doris. Both her and her late husband Marshall have made invaluable contributions to the Oriental Institute and our special exhibit programming. All of us here at the Oriental Institute will miss her dearly.



Ernst Emil Herzfeld (July 23, 1879–January 20, 1948) standing at the top of the stairway to the Apadana at Persepolis, 1933. Herzfeld directed the Oriental Institute's Persian Expedition in Iran from 1931 to 1934 (D. 13306)



Erich Friedrich Schmidt (September 13, 1897–October 3, 1964) in his office at the Oriental Institute, 1935. Schmidt directed the Oriental Institute's Persian Expedition in Iran from 1934 to 1939 (D. 13300)