

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM

P. P. Delougaz, Curator

In addition to our long-established practice of acquainting Oriental Institute members and Museum visitors with the latest finds of the Institute's field expeditions and with recent acquisitions from other sources, we aimed during the past year to support the public lecture series with appropriate temporary exhibits. In sustaining this active program of special exhibits during the past year, the regular Museum staff was greatly helped by the skilful work of our enthusiastic and devoted volunteers, Mrs. G. Corson Ellis, Mrs. John Livingood, and Mrs. Theodore D. Tieken, who mended and restored most of the broken pottery vases that were to be shown.

The largest and most ambitious of the new special exhibitions is that of the latest season's finds by Professor Keith Seele in Nubia. All the objects displayed in the previous special exhibit of Nubian finds (mentioned in the 1963/64 report) were removed and a completely new exhibition set up and finished in time for his lecture on February 17, 1965. The importance of individual finds which are included in this display are discussed by Dr. Seele in his section on the Nubian excavations during the winter of 1963–64 in the present report.

A second special exhibit was arranged to coincide with the lecture given by Professor Helene J. Kantor and the writer on March 31, 1965, on the results of the excavations at Khirbat al-Karak during the summer of 1964. Miss Kantor played a major part in planning and arranging that exhibit. Since the second temporary display of recent finds from Nubia still occupies the whole of the Palestinian Hall, and since interest in the Palestinian antiquities is often expressed by visitors to the Museum, a selection of Palestinian objects from our permanent collection was again put on display adjoining the special exhibit of Khirbat al-Karak finds at the east end of the Babylonian Hall.

Special exhibits were also arranged in connection with the lecture of Père R. de Vaux on May 5,

◊ Catherine Brandel recording Nubian mortuary vessel



Detail of engraving on dagger

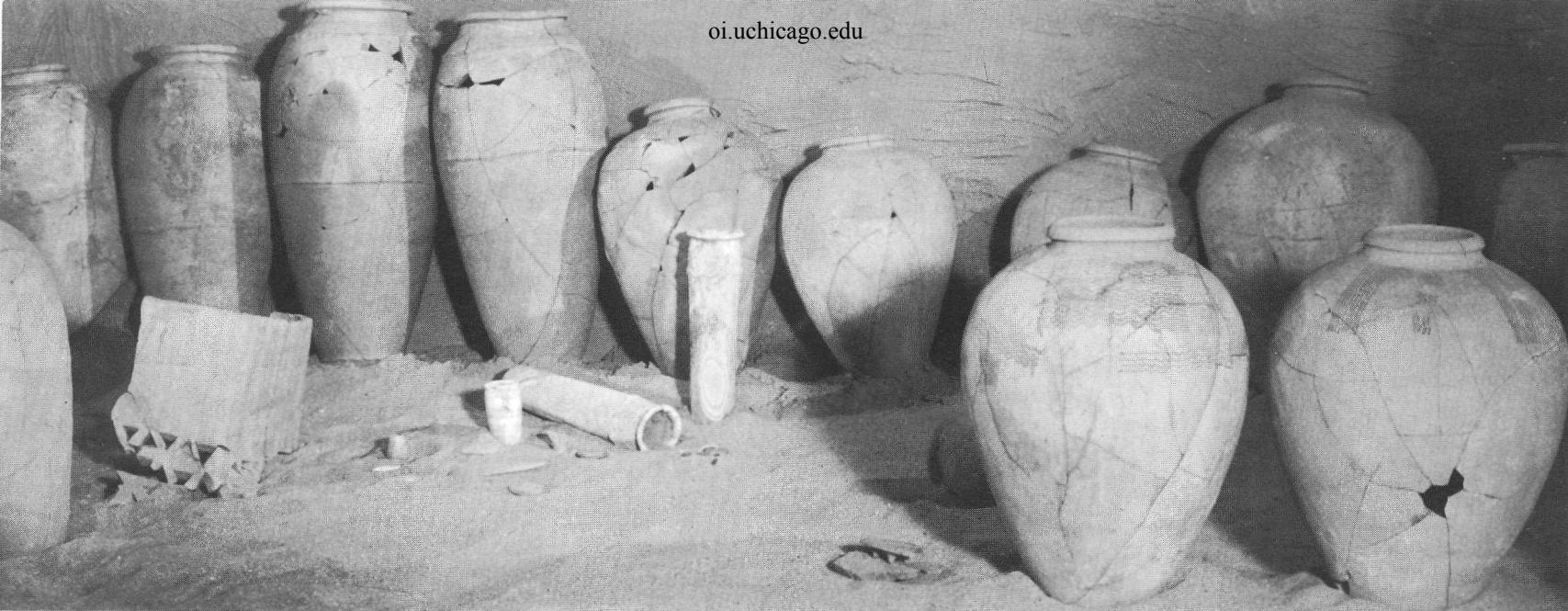
*Ceremonial dagger from Luristan, Iran.
Early First Millennium B.C. (Gift of
Mrs. Khalil Rabenu, New York.)*



1965, and Professor Hans G. Güterbock on May 19, 1965.

On the occasion of the one hundred and seventy-fifth meeting of the American Oriental Society and the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature held on the campus of the University of Chicago between April 13 and 15, 1965, two special exhibits were installed in the Iranian Hall, one consisting of representative finds from Chogha Mish and the other containing an excellent collection of Iranian pottery of many periods, formerly in the possession of Professor Ernst Herzfeld, part of which is now permanently in the Oriental Institute's collection and part of which was kindly lent us for the occasion by the Chicago Museum of Natural History.

In addition to the exhibition of objects, a number of Oriental Institute publications were put on display in the Museum in proximity to the objects which are published in them. During the week of the meetings of the American Oriental Society and the Society of Biblical Literature, a special display of Oriental Institute publications and of University of Chicago Press books dealing with the ancient Near East were shown by the Museum at the Center for Continuing Education, which served as headquarters for the meetings.



During the past year the archeological laboratory in the basement of the Oriental Institute has been largely furnished through a special grant obtained by the Director from the National Science Foundation. It is being used for research and instruction as intended. But the pace of the growth of our collections is such that, in spite of this much welcomed additional space, our working facilities and especially the display areas are strained to the limit.

A reconstruction of the entrance shaft into Tomb at Adenden in Nubia. The vessels are shown in their original positions, but have been mended in Chicago.

Part of temple relief, Hermopolis, Middle Egypt. Reign of Akhenaton (about 1372-1355 B.C.). (Gift of Mrs. Norbert Schimmel. New York.)



Spouted jar from the Mazanderan region, Northern Iran.



During the 1964-65 year, 43,817 visitors were registered in the Museum. The number of guided tours was 290, most of them guided by Miss Leila Ibrahim, others by Miss Rosemary Clark, Mr. Robert Kennedy, and some of our graduate students and academic staff; 87 groups who visited the Museum did not require the services of a docent. Other normal activities continued on approximately the same scale as in recent years. No special funds for enlarging the Museum's collections through purchase were available, but a few important objects were again presented by faithful and generous friends.

In the spring of 1966, the Oriental Institute Museum, together with the other museums in the city of Chicago, will serve as host to the sixty-first annual meeting of the American Association of Museums. To the rich and varied program which is being planned for this event, the Oriental Institute Museum hopes to contribute its part.