

The Membership Program

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We close this year midst a deluge of membership applications, stacks of paper for *News & Notes*, and piles of left-over lecture invitations—cellulose reminders of a successful membership drive, revisions of our newsletters and mailing system, and the activities of the annual membership program. Many persons at the Institute and among our members have worked on the diverse projects of this office and their efforts have produced what I deem a successful year.

After months of designing brochures, typing letters, stuffing envelopes, and finally processing applications, all of us were most pleased by the 350 new memberships added to our rolls this year. We felt increasing excitement as the daily mail told us of new members around the world, across the nation and throughout the Chicago area. Our eight foreign members in six countries have become 53 members in seventeen countries, while the total number of memberships increased to an unprecedented 1,150. These figures are modest, but still a gratifying reward to the staff who typed and stuffed. We thank all those who made this success possible, in particular the members who suggested the names of prospective members and Mrs. John Livingood, who, with the help of Mrs. David Maher, brought additional new members through the Volunteer Guide Program.

Besides the membership drive, we worked to improve the whole membership program, especially for the increasing number of members outside the Chicago area. We changed the randomly issued "Archeological Newsletters" for a more regular news sheet called *News & Notes*. Mr. Peter T. Daniels, a graduate student of Semitic linguistics, ably steered our *News & Notes* through the difficulties of a first year. Combining all the separate mailings of the past—newsletters from the field expeditions, lecture notices, various news items, and short articles of interest—*News & Notes* hopefully retains the informality and spontaneity of the former archeological newsletters while maintaining continued contact with the members. Like the drive, *News & Notes* is a cooperative effort. This year, faculty, staff, and members contributed material. Hopefully, all of us will continue to provide the ingredients for a pleasant and rewarding means of communication.

The annual lecture series included three reports on field projects.

Mr. Robert J. Braidwood surveyed the last several decades of the Pre-historic Project; Mr. McGuire Gibson described the 1973 season at Nippur (Iraq); and Miss Helene J. Kantor summarized the season at Chogha Mish (Iran). Two other lectures dealt with Israel and Egypt. Mr. Joe D. Seger, of the Hebrew Union College Archaeological School in Jerusalem gave an interesting account of his dig at Tell Gezer (Israel). Mr. Richard A. Parker, formerly of the Institute and now professor emeritus at Brown University, was to have talked about "Ancient Egyptian Astronomy" in this year of Kohoutek but was unable to come to Chicago. In his stead, Mr. John A. Wilson read the lecture. We were highly gratified when Messrs. Seger and Parker joined the Institute as members this spring.

On a Sunday afternoon with blustery April winds, the Institute hosted another event in the membership program, Members' Day. Our first open house was to acquaint new members of recent years, prospective members, and old friends with the research projects of the Institute, as well as its physical facilities of laboratories, workrooms, and offices. Seemingly, the two highlights of the day were the swift tours of the basement work areas and the presentation of the recording of "Hurrian Music" by Mr. Hans G. Güterbock on the third floor. Mrs. Anne D. Kilmer, who formerly worked with the late Benno Landsberger and is now at the University of California at Berkeley, through her research focused world attention on this ancient song, which Mr. Güterbock has amply discussed in *News & Notes*.

In assessing this year's program, we cannot overlook how contributions from members were used. Again the major portion of dues provided substantial support to the general expenses of the Institute. In addition, members generously contributed to expeditions abroad: Nippur, Chogha Mish, and the Prehistoric Project. At home, the Institute completed the Nuzi Tablet Project; membership funds paid several students who repaired and made casts of more than a thousand cuneiform tablets, which will soon be ready to be returned to Iraq. These funds also provided student aid for work in other areas of the Institute. Contributions from members, in addition to other gifts, helped establish the new conservation laboratory in the Institute. Lastly, as a long-needed and direct benefit to members, a new public address system was installed in Breasted Lecture Hall and paid for from members' dues.

With gratitude to all who helped with the membership drive and the membership program, we look forward to more years like this one.