

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

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The Membership Program at the Oriental Institute exists to help our members keep current with our increasing knowledge about the rise of human civilization in the ancient Near East.

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To this end we publish a bimonthly newsletter and an *Annual Report*. We offer an evening lecture series for members, with both outside lecturers and Oriental Institute speakers, and we run archaeological tours to the Near East. A series of Saturday classes for members is presented by the Education Office, which also runs free Sunday afternoon films on archaeology and the Near East. Every year and a half we also open the offices and basement of the Institute to members for Members' Day, with behind-the-scenes tours of the projects and workrooms of the Oriental Institute.

The opening lecture for the 1986-87 membership series was presented in October by C. A. Keller, of the University of California at Berkeley, on "The Painters of Pharaoh's Tomb" and was followed by a gala reception in the Museum. In November we heard from Father Stanislaw Loffreda, of the Franciscan Biblical Institute in Jerusalem, on "Excavations at Capernaum," followed in December by Richard Fazzini, The Brooklyn Museum, on "Brooklyn and the Lady of the Lake: The Brooklyn Museum Excavations at the Precinct of Mut at South Karnak." In January, the Oriental Institute's Fred Donner presented "Some Traditional Crafts of Syria," and Thomas McClellan, also from the Oriental Institute, told us about his "Excavations at el-Qitar: Late Bronze Age Fortress on the Euphrates." At the end of the month George Bass, from Texas A&M University, talked on "A Late Bronze Age Shipwreck near Kas, Turkey," and in February Bryn Mawr College's Richard Ellis lectured on "A Village on the Euphrates: Four Seasons of Excavations at Gritille, Turkey." Both of these lectures were jointly sponsored by the Chicago Society of the A.I.A. In March we heard a lecture by Gary O. Rollefson, of San Diego State University, on "Neolithic Developments at Ain Ghazal, Jordan." In April we heard from John A. Brinkman, The Oriental Institute, on "The Laws of



● Party goes at the black-tie/costume fall benefit.

Hammurabi," and Machteld J. Mellink, from Bryn Mawr College, told us about "East and West in Anatolian Art of 700 to 500 B.C.: Myth, Cult, and Kingship." The series ended in May with a presentation by Israel Finkelstein, Bar-Ilan University, Israel, on his "Shiloh Excavations." There were also two summer lectures. In July Oriental Institute Conservator, Laura D'Alessandro, spoke on "Archaeological Conservation: What Is It and Why Do We Do It?," and the Institute's Robert K. Ritner told us in August about "Egyptian Religion and Magic." Each of the lectures was followed by a reception in the Museum halls or the Institute's garden, allowing the speakers and audience a chance to chat informally.

The bimonthly newsletter, *News & Notes*, has articles about the current work of the Oriental Institute, both in the field and here in Chicago, as well as listings of the various upcoming programs, events, exhibitions, and lectures. It also carries announcements of the members' courses offered every quarter by the Institute's Education Office.

On October 20th we had our second gala benefit, *Passport to the Past*, to aid the Museum. It was co-chaired by Kitty Picken, Rita Picken, and Mary Shea, ably assisted by the Museum's Ray Tindel, Jim Richerson, and Denise Browning, all of whom put in countless hours to make things work smoothly. It was a great success and a wonderful party.

The Visiting Committee to the Oriental Institute presented its annual dinner this year on the 18th of May. Given for the Institute's excavations at el-Qitar, it fea-



- *"Ziggurat" cake at the October benefit.*
- *Food at the benefit took the familiar shapes of an Egyptian temple and an obelisk.*

tured a special exhibition on Tom McClellan's work at this important site on the Euphrates. Those attending enjoyed cocktails in the Iranian Hall and the courtyard garden and dinner among the mummies and Assyrian reliefs in the Museum.

The Membership Program couldn't function without the aid of many people. Helen Glennon, our long-time volunteer, manages to stay cheerful in the face of the never-ending cycle of membership renewal notices she prepares and sends out each month. Jill Carlotta Maher, head of the Visiting Committee's Sub-committee on Development, works with us on every phase of raising money for the Institute and its projects. Elda Maynard, who edited *News & Notes* for many years, continues to offer advice and counsel. Finally, on a sad note for me, my membership associate of many years, Kerry Bedford, has left to return home to Australia. She is deeply missed by us all.