Dear Members and Friends of the Oriental Institute,

The Oriental Institute's storied history and famous expertise in Egypt—and the unique itinerary for this year's tour—make this journey an unparalleled opportunity.

Join archaeologist Dr. Nadine Moeller on this tour from culturally rich Cairo into the sands far beyond the life-giving waters of the Nile, to the oases, temples, and dreamlike landscapes of the Western Desert. Follow in the footsteps of not only Alexander the Great, but also of many Oriental Institute Egyptologists who have come before you, alongside today's leading authorities.

Highlights of our journey include an in-depth encounter with the ancient city of Alexandria and an exclusive look at the Chicago House Epigraphic Survey at Luxor, followed by a private cocktail reception.

We hope you'll embark on this remarkable odyssey with Dr. Moeller and our exceptional staff of experts.

Gil Stein
Director, Oriental Institute

In his bid to conquer the world, Alexander the Great entered Egypt in 332 B.C. and snatched control from the hated Persian King Darius III. The Egyptians viewed Alexander as a savior and liberator of sorts. At the Oracle of the god Amun in the Siwa Oasis (which we visit on this journey), Alexander was pronounced the new Master of the Universe and a son of the gods. His time in Egypt would prove extremely fruitful, and he left behind a legacy that included the prosperous city of Alexandria.

Come join us as we follow in Alexander’s footsteps—and far beyond, with ample time in the fascinating oases of the Western Desert.

Land in Cairo, the perfect place to begin our exploration. Settle into the historic Mena House Hotel, where a century of luminaries have stayed before us—Winston Churchill, Agatha Christie, Cecil B. DeMille, Charlie Chaplin...

An introductory lecture first, then the wonders of the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, a world-renowned cache of archaeological finds including the world’s largest collection of Pharaonic antiquities and many of the treasures buried with King Tutankhamen.
We follow the route that Alexander the Great took from Memphis to the Siwa Oasis, a clutch of date-palm groves, walled gardens, and olive orchards fed by abundant natural springs. The local scenery is stunning.

Within Siwa, tour the ancient town of Aghurmi, site of the Temple of the Oracle, which was already a popular destination for the great and powerful by the 26th Dynasty, centuries before Alexander arrived.

See the 30th Dynasty temple at Umm Ubayda and the spring known locally as Cleopatra’s Bath. Explore eastern and western Siwa, both chock full of painted tombs and temples. Visit the small Siwa House Ethnographic Museum and remains of the Fortress of Shali, the hub of the oasis, built in A.D. 1203.

Bahariya Oasis beckons, deep in the Western Desert. We drive to it in 4x4 vehicles. Bahariya is among the most pristine oases in Egypt, virtually untouched by modernity. The riches here are plentiful: a temple dedicated to Alexander the Great; the 26th Dynasty tower of the Arabs, a unique Greco-Roman lighthouse.

Next, we trace the Mediterranean coast, stopping en route at Abu Menas, where pilgrims flock to the exceptional basilica. At Abusir, we view the Tower of the Arabs, a unique Greco-Roman lighthouse.

There are World War II memorials to view at the battle site of el-Alamein before we reach our hotel in Mersa Matrouh.

Tut’s famous golden funerary mask is here permanently (the government no longer allows it to leave Egypt).

We also visit the Coptic Museum, which traces Christian history in Egypt through Pharaonic, Greco-Roman, and Islamic remains. The Museum is housed in the Fortress of Babylon, part of the old city walls built by Emperor Trajan in A.D. 98. It shares this space with the old churches of Cairo: St. Sergius, St. Barbara, and the sixth-century Hanging Church of El Muallaga, our next stop.

To Alexandria, next. Founded by Alexander the Great in 331 B.C., it would serve as the capital of Greco-Roman Egypt as well as the backdrop for the stormy relationship between Cleopatra and Mark Antony. During our visit, we examine the city’s rich history with visits to the second-century B.C. painted tombs at the Bay of Anfoushy; the Hellenistic tombs of Mustapha Pasha; the catacombs of Kom el-Shuqafa; Pompey’s Pillar; a temple dedicated to the god Serapis; the Roman ruins at Kom el-Dikka; and the recently excavated mosaics at the Great Library. There’s also time in the National Museum, whose wonderful collections illustrate the history of Alexandria.

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Dynasty temple of Ain el-Muftilla (ancient Psobthis); the tombs of Amenhotep and others; and the Golden Mummy Museum, which houses some of the Ptolemaic Golden Mummies discovered nearby in 1996.

As we approach the Dakhla Oasis, we spot the famous white-chalk inselbergs of the Farafra Depression. Fruit orchards and pink cliffs define the oasis, as does traditional village architecture. Dakhla appears to have been inhabited since the Paleolithic Age.

Kharga Oasis, next, filled with Roman temples and tombs. See scenes from the Persian Mithras cult intermingling with traditional Egyptian funeral scenes. We then divide our time between the necropolis of Qila el-Dab’a, the Roman temple of Nadura, the fascinating el-Bagawat Christian Cemetery, the Roman ruins at Doush, and two incredible Ptolemaic and Roman temples—Qasr el-Zaiyan and Qasr el-Ghawita.

Through the Western Desert again, this time bound for Luxor. En route, we stop in Abydos at the Memorial Temple of Seti I. Within, see the Abydos Kings List, where Seti I depicted in chronological order every pharaoh preceding him, with a couple of notable revisionist exceptions.

On to Luxor, ancient Thebes, the richest archaeological area in all of Egypt. Luxor’s ancient buildings, tombs, statues, and monuments have attracted visitors for centuries. Begin at Luxor and Karnak temples, then follow up with a private cocktail reception and tour at Chicago House.

Cross the Nile to the west bank, where we explore Luxor’s royal necropolis and its incredible tombs of Sheikh Abd el-Qurna, Rekhmire, and Ramose as well as the mortuary temple and tomb complex of Deir el-Bahari and the Mortuary Temple of Seti I.

Then take some time at leisure to poke around on your own.

Fly back to Cairo for a gala farewell dinner before you catch your flight home.
Egypt’s Oases. A Journey through the Western Desert for Members of the Oriental Institute. 18 Days.

★ Day 1: U.S.  
Friday, 22 November 2013  
Fly overnight to Cairo.

★ Day 2-3: Cairo, Egypt  
Saturday & Sunday, 23-24 November 2013  
Land in Cairo, welcome dinner, tour briefing, Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, Coptic Museum, Hanging Church. Mena House.

★ Day 4-5: Alexandria  
Monday & Tuesday, 25-26 November 2013  
Drive to Alexandria, Qait Bey Citadel, Bay of Anfoushy, Mustapha Pasha, National Museum, Kom el-Shuqafa, Tigrane’s Tomb, Pompey’s Pillar, Temple of Serapis, Kom el-Dikka, Great Library. Four Seasons Alexandria.

★ Day 6: Mersa Matrouh  
Wednesday, 27 November 2013  
Drive to Abu Menas, Abusir, El-Alamein, Mersa Matrouh. Carols Beau Rivage Matrouh.

★ Day 7-8: Mersa Matrouh, Siwa Oasis  
Thursday & Friday, 28-29 November 2013  

★ Day 9-10: Bahariya Oasis  
Saturday & Sunday, 30 November-1 December 2013  
Four-wheel-drive through Western Desert to Bahariya Oasis, Alexander the Great Temple, Ain el-Muftilla, Tomb of Amenhotep, tombs of the wine merchants Bannentiu and Djed-Amun Iufankh, Golden Mummy Museum. Sheherazade Fixed Camp.

★ Day 11: Dakhla Oasis  
Monday, 2 December 2013  
Drive through White Desert, Deir el-Hagar, el-Qasr, Dakhla Oasis. Desert Lodge Hotel.

★ Day 12-13: Kharga Oasis  
Tuesday & Wednesday, 3-4 December 2013  
Ain Asil, Qila el-Dab’a, Kharga, el-Bagawat, Nadura, Doush, Ptolemaic and Roman temples, Qasr el-Ghawita, Qasr el-Zaiyan. Pioneer Hotel.

★ Day 14: Abydos, Luxor, Egypt  
Thursday, 5 December 2013  
Drive through Western Desert to Asuit, Memorial Temple of Seti I. Sonesta Luxor.

★ Day 15-16: Luxor  
Friday & Saturday, 6-7 December 2013  
Luxor Temple, Karnak Temple, private cocktail reception and tour at Chicago House, Tombs of Sheikh Abd el-Qurna, Rekhmire, Ramose, Deir el-Bahari, Mortuary Temple of Seti I, leisure time. Sonesta Luxor.

★ Day 17: Cairo  
Sunday, 8 December 2013  
Fly to Cairo, farewell dinner. Fairmont Heliopolis.

★ Day 18: Cairo; United States  
Monday, 9 December 2013  
Fly home.

This itinerary is subject to change.

Tour Prices  
Tour per person sharing room .................. $5,990  
Single supplement .................. $1,350  
International economy air per person (estimate) on Lufthansa or similar .................. $1,490  
Tax-deductible contribution (payable by check only) to the Oriental Institute per person ............ $600

BOOKING DEADLINE: 15 May 2013. After that date, reservations are offered on a space-available basis.
MEALS: All breakfasts plus most lunches and dinners are included in the tour price.

The tour is sold as described. There are no refunds for unused portions of these segments. The tour price is based on a minimum number of 20 travelers as well as present currency exchange and fuel rates. If less than the minimum number of travelers participate, or if there is a major change in exchange rates or a fuel surcharge, a price supplement may apply and/or the itinerary may be adjusted.

Members receive a separate acknowledgement from the Oriental Institute for the tax-deductible member donation.

Full terms and conditions are provided to members prior to booking. After booking, members receive a confirmation. Expect a detailed itinerary a few weeks before departure.

R. Crusoe strongly recommends that travelers purchase travel insurance.

° Inclusions
Accommodations based on double occupancy; internal air Luxor to Cairo via EgyptAir; group ground transportation; meals and sightseeing as indicated; bottled water on the motorcoach and at all meals; local wine and local beer at the farewell dinner; curator/lecturer and special events; hotel taxes; entrance fees to museums and places of interest; baggage handling; gratuities for local guides, drivers, porters; professional tour escort throughout; tour development and planning; reservation management by R. Crusoe senior tour consultant; and preparation and delivery of preliminary and final documents.

° Exclusions
International airfare; individual transfers; costs of passports and/or visas; all beverages except bottled water in motorcoach and at meals; personal expenses such as laundry, room service, excess baggage fees, and communication charges; and personal insurance coverage.

° Eligibility
Participation in this program requires that travelers be in good health. Walking and stair climbing are commonly part of many tours. Travelers with physical disabilities must make them known to R. Crusoe & Son at the time of booking. Persons with any medical problems or related dietary restrictions must inform R. Crusoe & Son well before departure.

° Registration
A deposit of $1,000 per person is required at the time you book. The remainder of the cost of your trip is due 90 days prior to your departure date. Payment can be made by personal check, Visa, MasterCard, Discover/Nova, and Diner's Club.

If your reservation is made within 90 days of departure, the entire cost of the trip must be paid at the time of confirmation.

° Cancellations
Cancellations received 90 days or more prior to departure are subject to a $300 per person cancellation fee. Cancellations received less than 90 days prior to departure are subject to the following forfeit as a percentage of the tour cost: 89-60 days, 35 percent; 59-30 days, 50 percent; 29 days or less, 100 percent.

° Airfare
International airfare is not included in the price of the tour.

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REGISTRATION & PAYMENT FORM
MEMBERS OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE: EGYPT 2013

Please return both pages of this completed form by mail or fax to R. Crusoe & Son,
566 W. Adams St. No. 505, Chicago, IL 60661 or 312-980-8100.
Any questions? Contact Nina Choi at R. Crusoe at 312-980-8007 or nchoi@rcrusoe.com.

Traveler Name(s) ________________________________ Date: ___________

TOUR RESERVATION & PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

BOOKING DEADLINE: Wednesday, 15 May 2013

After that date, reservations are offered on a space-available basis. A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to guarantee your reservation for these tours. Payment by personal check is preferred. In addition, payment may be made using the credit cards listed below.

Method of Payment: □ Personal check
(made payable to R. Crusoe & Son) □ Visa □ MasterCard □ Diner’s Club

$ ____________________  Amount to charge

Credit Card Number ____________________________ Expiration Date
Month/Year __________________

Security Code ____________________ On Back of Card

Cardholder’s Name (as it appears on the card)

Billing Address ____________________________ City State Zip Code

Shipping Address (if different from billing address) ____________________________ City State Zip Code

Cardholder’s Daytime Telephone Number ____________________________ Cardholder’s Evening Telephone Number ____________________________

Cardholder’s Email Address ____________________________

□ Yes, I have read and signed the Terms & Conditions on the following page. Payment constitutes acceptance of the Terms & Conditions as stated.

Cardholder’s Signature ____________________________
On the advancement of deposit, the depositor acknowledges that he or she has read and understands the specific inclusions, exclusions, registration, and cancellation policies of the tour, the terms and conditions listed below, and that he or she agrees to be bound by them. Signature above authorizes payment to R. Crusoe & Son (“R. Crusoe”) for all tour charges. Cancellation penalties apply, and R. Crusoe makes no refund for unused services. R. Crusoe strongly recommends that travelers purchase travel insurance.

Arrangements: Quoted tour prices include planning, handling, and operational charges and are quoted in U.S. dollars based on the current rate of exchange, tariff, and fuel prices. In the event of unexpected and significant cost increases, prices are subject to revision. On some programs, a fuel surcharge may apply.

R. Crusoe will advise travelers of possible surcharges that apply to a specific journey as soon as these surcharges are known.

Responsibility: R. Crusoe and its operating partners purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant services, and other services from various independent suppliers that are not subject to its control. R. Crusoe and its operating partners, therefore, be liable for any personal injury, loss, or damage to person or property that may occur due to (1) a wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary act by others not under the direct control of R. Crusoe and its operating partners, (2) defects in, or failures of, any aircraft, vessel, automotive vehicle, or other means of transportation not under its control, or (3) acts of God.

R. Crusoe and its operating partners also reserve the right to withdraw a tour or any part of it, to make such alterations in the itinerary as it deems necessary or desirable, to refuse to accept or retain as a member of any tour or part thereof any person at any time, and to pass on to tour members any expenditures or losses caused by airline schedule changes, delays, or events beyond its control. R. Crusoe and its operating partners are not responsible for any expenses incurred by trip members in preparing for the trip, including non-refundable or penalty-carrying airline tickets, special clothing, visa or passport fees, or other trip-related expenses.

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Travel Documents: All travel documents (air tickets, passport, destination-specific vaccination records, and inoculation verification) are the traveler's responsibility. It is also the responsibility of the traveler to obtain any necessary visas and public health documents for all applicable destinations and to comply with all customs requirements. Without the required documents, travelers may be denied entry into a particular destination. R. Crusoe is not liable for such denial.

Air Transportation: International air prices are a separate cost in addition to the land prices of tours. Should a traveler cancel or change an air reservation before or after his or her departure, cancellations penalties may apply.

Baggage: Baggage handling is at the traveler's risk throughout the tour. Baggage restrictions may apply. If so, R. Crusoe is not responsible for excess baggage fees.

Smoking: Smoking is not permitted during situations that involve fellow travelers. This applies when travelers are in restaurants, sightseeing vehicles, trains, ships and other water transport, air transport, and when participating in group activities.

Prices: Prices are based on a minimum of 20 travelers as well as present currency exchange rates. If fewer than the minimum number of travelers participates, or if there is a major change in exchange rates, a price supplement may apply and/or the itinerary maybe adjusted.

Tour Itinerary: The tour is sold as described. There are no refunds for unused portions of these segments. Upon booking, R. Crusoe sends travelers a confirmation. Expect a detailed day-by-day itinerary a few weeks prior to departure.

Inclusions: Accommodations based on double occupancy; internal air Luxor to Cairo via EgyptAir; group ground transportation; meals and sightseeing as indicated; bottled water on the motorcoach and at all meals; local wine and local beer at the farewell dinner; curator/lecturer and special events; hotel taxes; entrance fees to museums and places of interest; baggage handling; gratuities for local guides, drivers, porters; professional tour escort throughout; tour development and planning; reservation management by R. Crusoe senior tour consultant; and preparation and delivery of preliminary and final documents.

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29 January 2013