

## Notes from the Director

On the first of July, I began my second term as Director of the Kelsey Museum. The past months have thus presented an occasion to reflect upon the present state of the Kelsey's programs and their future course. Let me summarize where we have been and where I believe we are going.

During the last five years, we expanded our programs of excavation, exhibition, and research on the collections, especially those from former excavations. We instituted new programs in university and public education and in development, and we greatly increased university and public awareness and use of the Kelsey. We made a number of important acquisitions for the collection. We hired several curators and other staff members. We started a docents group, expanded the Board of the Associates as well as the scope of its activities, and we increased Associates' membership dramatically. We garnered a substantial number of grants for operating support and for various programs, old and new. We added three offices and renovated our choir loft to create work space for excavations and publications. We earned accreditation from the American Association of Museums, which in some sense marks our coming of age as a museum. It has been an exciting, if often exhausting, five years; and much of what we accomplished was made possible by Associates' contributions of volunteer time and financial support. As always, I am grateful for all you have done and continue to do for the Kelsey.

The next five will see some fine tuning of programs and, given present-day budgetary constraints, some inevitable trimming. But we will also be taking on new projects. Foremost in our minds is to provide for safer storage of the collections and adequate space for using them creatively in research and



Photo Freud Museum, London

*Among the objects in the exhibition of Sigmund Freud's antiquities was this 1st or 2nd century Roman Athena, which Freud displayed on his desk in Vienna. When threatened with the imminent loss of all his antiquities to the Nazis, he made this small bronze his highest priority for smuggling out of Austria.*

education at all levels. In order to maintain and improve the quality of our programs and collections, we will be actively pursuing major funding, including endowments. Moreover, we will be collaborating with other units of the University in an ambitious effort to revitalize undergraduate education at Michigan, an effort in which we expect the resources of the University's museums to play a central part. These, too, will be exciting years for the Kelsey, and I hope you will help us meet our new challenges.

I want to turn now to the very recent past and report on what has been happening since the last issue of this Newsletter appeared.

### Raiders of the Lost Art

On April 20th the Kelsey Associates and the Friends of the Museum of Art co-sponsored a delightful fundraiser. More than 150 people gathered at the Museum of Art (some in trench coats and dark glasses) to search for "treasures" in both museums. Teams of eight scurried about in a friendly competition, following clues contained in riddles, to see who could finish first. During an elegantly presented boxed supper, the crowd was entertained by the lively singing of "Fat Bob" Taylor. The evening was a wonderful success. Proceeds will be used by the Kelsey to offset the expense of conserving an Egyptian mummy case and by the Museum of Art to exhibit its collection of Tiffany glass.

### Special Event for Trial Members of the Associates

At last winter's Associates-sponsored benefit, "The Kelsey and All That Jazz," non-Associates who attended received a four-month trial membership as part of their donation. To encourage these trial members to join as regular members of the Associates, on May 10th the Kelsey held a reception for them in connection with the special exhibition, "Archaeology and the Aesthetic Eye of Esther B. Van Deman," which was then on loan from the Fototeca Unione of the Ameri-

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*Professor Emeritus Charles H. Sawyer examines some of Esther Van Deman's photographs. In the background at left a large portrait of Van Deman presides over the exhibition of her work.*

Photo W. Wood



can Academy in Rome. Katherine A. Geffcken, Professor of Greek and Latin at Wellesley College and co-author of the exhibition catalogue, and I presented informal gallery talks to an appreciative crowd. Joining our trial Associates on that occasion were members of the Wellesley Club of Birmingham and Ann Arbor.

#### **The Freud Antiquities**

The Kelsey was fortunate to be one of the thirteen American museums to host "The Sigmund Freud Antiquities: Fragments from a Buried Past," the nationally acclaimed exhibition organized by the Museum of Art of the State University of New York at Binghamton and the Freud Museum in London. The exhibition presents fascinating insights into Freud's thinking concerning ancient art and myth and his habitual use of archaeology as a metaphor for his own activity as he developed his theories of psychoanalysis.

Professor Margaret Root, assisted by a History of Art graduate student, Mariana Giovino, and the Kelsey's technician, Dana Buck, designed an installation that evoked the setting of Freud's famous consultation room in which he kept his treasured antiquities and books on archaeology. We were fortunate to be able to include in our installation two special loans—a letter in Freud's own hand, lent by Suzanne and Henry Meyers, long-time Associates of the Kelsey, and a copy of the Phillipson Bible lent by Dr. Alexander Grinstein, a well-known Freud scholar, analyst, and President of the Freud Archives. The Phillipson Bible, a profusely illustrated set of volumes in Hebrew and German,

was the Bible with which Freud was raised.

Thanks to the enterprise and enthusiasm of Dr. Nancy Kulish and Dr. Richard Rozumna of the Michigan Psychoanalytic Foundation, the cooperation of colleagues in the University's Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology, and the generosity of the Michigan Division of CIBA GEIGY Pharmaceuticals and numerous individual donors, we were able to raise the funds we needed to bring the exhibition to Ann Arbor.

To celebrate the opening of the exhibition, on June 29th we co-sponsored a symposium entitled "Archaeology and Psychoanalysis: The Freud Connection," which was organized by Dr. Kulish and her colleagues at the Michigan Psychoanalytic Foundation. More than 250 people attended the morning and afternoon sessions, during which papers were presented by Dr. Alexander Grinstein, Professor Piotr Michalowski, Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Studies, and Dr. Ellen Handler Spitz of Cornell University's Medical School. Following the symposium participants were invited to view the exhibition at the Kelsey and attend a reception on the lawn of the Helen Newberry residence hall adjacent to the Museum.

On July 19th, the Museum hosted a special reception for the Associates that featured a tour of the exhibition conducted by Mariana Giovino. During Art Fair (July 24-27), the exhibition drew a record crowd of nearly 2000 people to the Kelsey. The exhibition will travel next to the University of Houston, then to the Jewish Museum in New York, and

will conclude its national tour at Boston University.

#### **Excavations**

In the spring we sent two teams into the field in Tunisia, one to Carthage and the other to Lepti Minus (Lamta). Despite some uncertainty about political conditions resulting from the Gulf War, both teams managed to achieve what they had hoped to.

At **Carthage** the expedition conducted a full season of work from May 15th to July 15th. The major accomplishment was to excavate the nave of the Early Christian church at Bir El-Knissia and identify the latest phases of architectural construction. A significant number of very large architectural fragments were recovered, and two levels of flooring were identified. Field Director Susan Stevens believes that it will be possible to reconstruct two phases of the nave's construction, probably dating to the 5th and 6th centuries A.C. Excavation reached the level of burials, which will be explored next year.

Work on the galleries of the Museum of Carthage progressed well with the help of EARTHWATCH volunteers working under the direction of Jim Richerson. Material from Bir El-Knissia will be prominently displayed in the main Early Christian gallery of the museum.

Just a month before the season began at **Lepti Minus**, we learned that the project had received a sizeable grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for two full seasons of work. Additional funding will be provided by the National Geographic Society. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Professors John Humphrey and David

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Mattingly, Principal Investigator and Field Director, respectively, on their successful proposals.

The Lepti team was active both in the field and in preparing the publication resulting from the 1990 season (reported on in the Fall 1990 issue of this Newsletter). In the field they excavated several tombs discovered during the 1990 season, while continuing the survey of the ancient city, which is being threatened by plans for urban development. Finds from both seasons were studied for publication and interpretive display at the Lamta Museum.

We will present more detailed reports on the 1991 seasons at Carthage and Lepti Minus in a later issue of this Newsletter. In this issue Professor Sharon Herbert brings us up to date on the work she and her co-director, Professor Henry Wright, and their team accomplished at Coptos from December, 1990, through mid-February, 1991, despite the threat of danger caused by the war with Iraq.

#### Building Improvements

As I write, we are awaiting the arrival of a construction crew to begin remodeling and enlarging our conservation laboratory. The narrow galley-like laboratory can no longer accommodate the ever-increasing volume of work needed to safeguard the collections and support research and teaching programs. Geoffrey Brown, our new Curator of Conservation, wants the lab space to be more flexible so that he and his student assistants can work on several different

projects at one time. He also wants to provide space for curators, research scientists, and students who need to perform laboratory analyses in connection with their research on the collections and excavations.

Another area of the Museum slated for improvement is the seminar/publication storage room in the basement. The seminar portion of the room, affectionately known as the dungeon, will be thoroughly redecorated. Plans for finished walls, a lighted exhibition case for objects used in classes, built-in storage cabinets and shelves, carpeting, and new lighting promise to transform the space almost beyond recognition. The area now used for storing Museum publications will be reorganized for storing and studying impressions of inscriptions, known as squeezes. If all goes according to schedule, construction should be completed in time to begin the fall term.

#### Docents' Activities

Once again this year our enterprising docents, led by Dottie Sims, set up shop on the front lawn of the Museum during Art Fair, selling T-shirts and offering passers-by the opportunity to stamp their names in hieroglyphs. They did a thriving business. Earlier in the summer, docents conducted hieroglyphic workshops on the Top of the Park during the Ann Arbor Summer Festival. Some 600 people attended on two successive Sundays. Meanwhile in Japan, Anna Laura Von Buren has been having great success in circulating duplicate versions

of the docents' traveling suitcases to English-speaking schools. It is gratifying to know that our outreach program now extends so far afield of Ann Arbor.

#### Changes on the Associates Board

At the annual meeting of the Associates on March 15th, four new members were elected to the Board of the Associates for an initial three-year term beginning September, 1991. I want to welcome Julian and Diane Hoff, Inge Schmidt, and Ruth Whitaker and look forward to working with them in the years ahead. I also want to thank retiring members of the Board, Michael and Helen Radock and Gerald Hodge, for giving their time, sharing innovative ideas, and in general helping to make the programs of the Associates a success.

#### A New Membership Year Begins

October 1st marks the beginning of the new Associates membership year, and I want to encourage you to renew your ties to the Kelsey or to join us for the first time. I must emphasize how much your membership means to the well-being of the Museum. Not only do your contributions create a vitally important flexible fund that helps us undertake new initiatives, but your demonstration of interest in what we are all about gives a continual boost to our morale. In these times when funds are especially hard to come by, that kind of dual encouragement of our efforts is enormously important to us.

*Elaine K. Gazda*



Wellesley College Professor Katherine A. Geffcken, right, shares her insights with those who attended her gallery talk in conjunction with the exhibition "Archaeology and the Aesthetic Eye of Esther B. Van Deman."

Photo W. Wood



## Staff News

**Marti Lu Allen** has been named Assistant Director of the Museum of Peoples and Cultures at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, a position she will take up on October 1st. Marti began to work at the Kelsey as a graduate student in the Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology. While a student she catalogued hundreds of objects in the collections, set up a database for research on Karanis, and produced a major exhibition on terracotta figurines. After graduating she became Coordinator of Collections, then Assistant Curator of Exhibitions. As curator Marti created numerous special exhibitions, including "Touring the Ruins: Vintage Photographs and Postcards of the Ancient World," "Ancient Locks and Keys," "The President's Choice: Selections from the Ruthven Collection of Antiquities," and our current exhibition, "The Beginning of Understanding: Writing in the Ancient World." For this last exhibition, Marti was awarded a grant from the Michigan Council for the Humanities. As part of our Getty-funded project on Terenouthis, she recently completed an article on the terracottas found at the site in 1935 by University of Michigan archaeologists. She will travel to Egypt in the summer of 1992 on a fellowship awarded by the American Research Center in Egypt to study Terenouthis terracottas excavated in the 1970s by Ahmed El-Sawy of the University of Assiut. Marti has made many lasting contributions to the Kelsey. She will maintain her ties with the Museum through her continuing research on Karanis and Terenouthis.

**Michelle Biggs**, who worked in the Museum office for four years (1986-1990) while an undergraduate at Michigan, returned to the Kelsey office this summer in a quarter-time position as Associates Secretary. She is also working for the Department of Classical Studies. Michelle, who majored in classical archaeology, brings enthusiasm and a strong background to both her positions. It is a great pleasure to have her with us again.

### Associates' Tour of Greece

The Associates are planning an archaeological tour of Greece for May of 1992. Details of the itinerary, dates, and cost will be announced in October. Please contact Zoe Pearson at Conlin-Faber Travel (677-0900) or Lauren Talalay at the Kelsey Museum (747-0441) for further information.

At the end of April, **Giovanna Costantini** left the Kelsey after serving for four years as Development Officer. As the first person to occupy that position, she laid the foundation for our development program and was instrumental in helping us attain a substantially higher level of individual and corporate giving to the Kelsey. Giovanna is working on her dissertation in the Department of the History of Art and expects to pursue an academic career.

Archivist **Carol Finerman** worked at the California Institute of Technology for five weeks. She reorganized all their historical files and revamped the guides to their manuscript collections.

**Elaine Gazda** will be on leave from January 1 to December 31, 1992. She and her family plan to spend the winter term in residence at the American Academy in Rome, where she will be a Visiting Scholar. She plans to work on two articles on Roman portraiture and complete a manuscript on the Roman development of hydraulic concrete.

**Tom Kazmierzak's** part-time position as head guard was increased to full-time in September. Tom will assume greater responsibility for managing the Museum's security program.

Associate Curator **Margaret Cool Root** presented a lecture to the Bay View Association in Bay View, Michigan, entitled "Bay View in Ancient Egypt." She is also conducting research in their archives concerning the important collection of Egyptian antiquities acquired by the Association in the 1890s and purchased by the Kelsey Museum during the 1970s.

**Lauren Talalay**, Assistant Curator of Education, spent the month of August on an excavation and survey project in Macedonia in northwestern Greece. The prehistoric site of Kitrini Limni has been the focus of salvage operations by the Greek antiquities service for the past few years. The bulk of finds thus far recovered date from approximately 4000 B.C. to 1500 B.C. Laurie is the only foreign archaeologist who was invited to join the project. Her research on prehistoric art was featured in an article entitled "Body Imagery of the Ancient Aegean" in the July-August, 1991, issue of *Archaeology*.





Photo S. Herbert

*Small funerary stele excavated at the Coptos city site.*

## The 1990-91 Season at Coptos

9:00 p.m. New Year's Eve 1990. The village of Qift, Upper Egypt. Electricity knocked out by an unprecedented desert rain storm, team members of the University of Michigan/University of Assiut expedition to Coptos toasted the advent of 1991 by candlelight and prepared for the next day's digging. It was the third week of the Kelsey Museum's first full season of excavation at the ancient Nile port of Coptos.

In antiquity a large cosmopolitan city, a second home to Greek, Roman, African, and Arabian merchants, flourished around this port. It was the major transshipment point for goods traveling from Africa, Arabia, and India to Mediterranean Roman markets via Red Sea ports and caravan routes across the eastern desert of Egypt. Initially encouraged by the Graeco-Macedonian rulers of Hellenistic Egypt, and later protected by the Roman army, this lucrative trade provided a conduit for goods, people, and ideas to travel between east and west. Through excavation of selected sections of Coptos and study of the outposts along the desert caravan routes, Michigan archaeologists hope better to understand the ebb and flow of trade along this route throughout antiquity.

The 1990-91 campaign lasted from mid-December, 1990, to mid-February, 1991. As in the case of the earlier short

exploratory seasons in 1987 and 1988 (see Newsletters for Fall 1988 and Fall 1989) the project was two-pronged, with one team excavating at the city site under the direction of Professor Sharon Herbert, Curator of Excavations at the Kelsey Museum, and another group exploring the desert campsites under the leadership of Professor Henry Wright, Director of the Museum of Anthropology. Graduate students from Anthropology and from the Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology at the University of Michigan and from the Department of Egyptology at the Sohag branch of the Univer-

sity of Assiut took part in the project. The teams were joined by specialists from other U.S. and Egyptian universities and museums. Funds were provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the University of Michigan, the Kelsey Museum, and private donors.

Excavations at the city site revealed houses of Hellenistic through late Roman date. These were simple mudbrick buildings which underwent frequent remodelings. They were built over and surrounded by masses of broken pottery—more than six tons from the 1990-91 season alone. The twentieth-century U.S.A. is certainly not the first "disposable" society! Study of this pottery should provide the clue for dating changes within the city and will prove useful for dating the outposts in the Eastern Desert as well. The houses were built over a massive mudbrick wall from late Pharaonic times (late 7th or 6th century B.C.). One of the most notable discoveries of the season was a small funerary stele found in the debris covering this wall. A mass burial of seven men, women, and children predating this wall hints at some previously unsuspected and as yet undated disaster at the site.

Meanwhile out in the desert, the

survey team located several ancient campsites and conducted soundings at the outpost of Khash-el-Mineh. Survey finds ranged from lower Palaeolithic hand axes through Mamluke pottery. The excavation at Khash-el-Mineh produced pottery from the 1st through the 4th centuries A.C. The dry conditions of the desert allowed organic materials to survive and pieces of ancient rope, leather, and textile, including an embroidered shawl over three feet in length, were recovered.

The 1990-91 season at Coptos and the Eastern Desert produced significant stratified finds that provide an excellent point of departure for a better understanding of this important ancient trade system. Further excavation is planned during May and June of 1992, with a final survey and study season projected for the winter of 1993.

*Sharon Herbert*

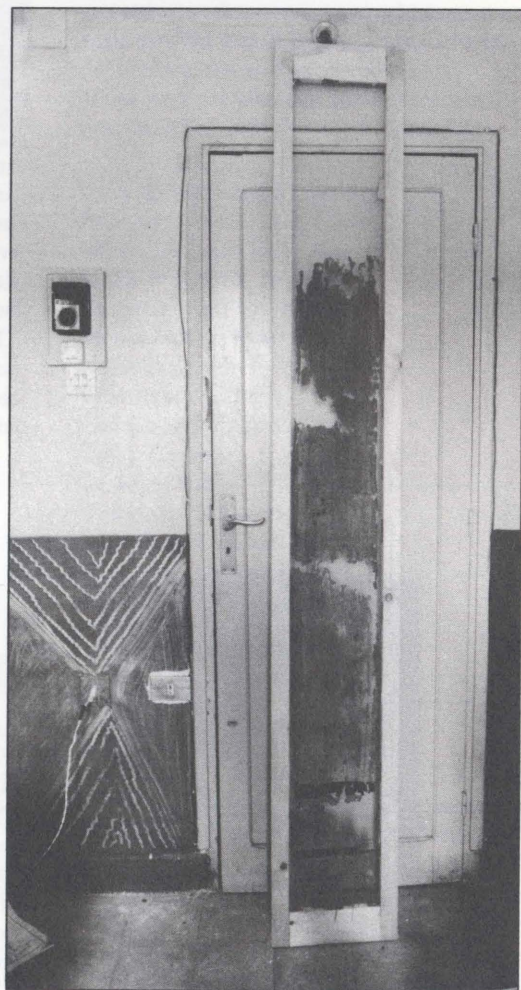


Photo S. Herbert

*Brook Bowman constructed the conservation frame for this Roman shawl, found at Khash-el-Mineh in the Eastern Desert and photographed here against the door of the dig house in Qift.*



## Current Exhibition

On August 30th the Kelsey Museum opened an exhibition entitled "The Beginning of Understanding": Writing in the Ancient World." The curators for the show are Marti Allen, Assistant Curator of Exhibitions, and T. Keith Dix, Assistant Professor of Classics at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

"[Knowing] letters is the best beginning of understanding." Written in Greek on a wood tablet over 1500 years ago by a school student, these words convey the importance that the ancients attached to literacy, or "knowing letters." This tablet and over 200 other objects from University of Michigan collections form the focus of a special exhibition on ancient writing. The exhibition explores the origins and dissemination of various language systems in the ancient Mediterranean—cuneiform, hieroglyphics, Greek, Latin, Coptic, Demotic, etc. From tax receipts and love spells to excerpts from Homer's *Iliad*, the varied functions of the early written word are illustrated by texts on clay, lead, stone, wood, papyrus, textiles, and even bread. Among the artifacts are ancient reed pens, faience ink wells, implements used to inscribe stone and wood, and tables of decorated wood designed to facilitate the reading of books written on long papyrus rolls. These objects bear witness to the unifying power of writing, an intellectual art form that has fostered better understanding among the peoples of the

world through the ages.

This exhibition has been made possible by grants from the Michigan Council for the Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and from the University's English Composition Board.

A scholarly catalogue of the exhibition, edited by Marti Allen and T. Keith Dix, is available for purchase.

## Related Events

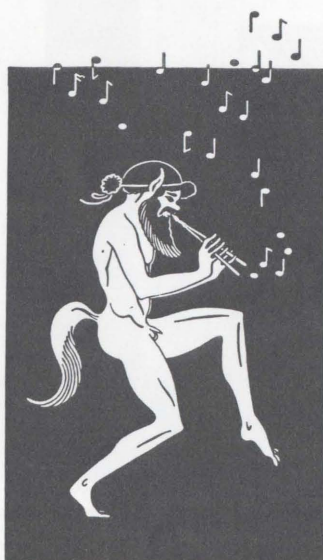
In conjunction with this exhibit, the English Composition Board is sponsoring a "Celebration of Literacy" this fall. Free public events include:

"Art Words from the Brush," an exhibition of Asian calligraphy from the Museum of Art's permanent collection, August 24–November 10, University of Michigan Museum of Art.

*Bluffing It*, a film in which Dennis Weaver portrays an illiterate blue-collar worker who learns to read, September 27–29, Room 1800, Chemistry Building, 930 North University.

"Literacy & Learning in Eighteenth Century America," an exhibition at the Clements Library, 909 South University, September 30–October 31.

"Encountering Literacy: Interface between the Learner and Literacy," a panel discussion among Karen Wixson, University of Michigan; Courtney Cazden, Harvard University; Dan Wagner, University of Pennsylvania; and Joan Friedberg, Pittsburgh; October 4, 7:30 p.m., Rackham Amphitheatre.



## The Kelsey and All That Jazz

Join us Friday night, January 31, 1992, in the Michigan League Ballroom for **The Kelsey and All That Jazz**. We will once again feature the Dixieland sounds of the Olivia Street Stompers. Look for your invitation in December. Tickets go on sale in January. We look forward to seeing you there.

## New Volunteer Training Program

The Kelsey Museum is seeking volunteers to train for special tours of the Kelsey collections. The training program will include readings, discussions, and presentations on the Egyptian collection (predynastic through Graeco-Roman) and the Karanis collection in addition to a basic introduction to hieroglyphics. The training period will extend from October, 1991, through January, 1992. Please contact Dr. Lauren Talalay at 747-0441 for further information.



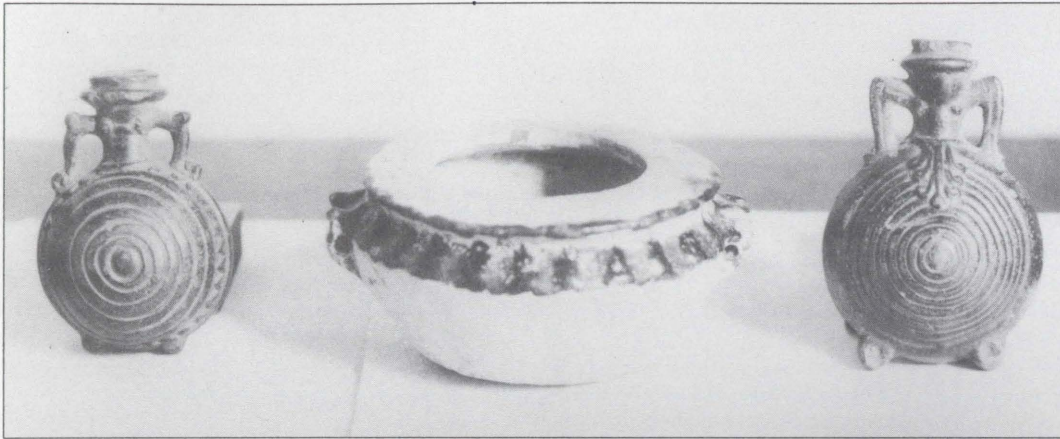


Photo Kelsey Museum Archives

The photograph above dates from 1924-25 and depicts pottery purchased by Arthur E. R. Boak in the Fayoum area. The photograph at right, taken in 1990, shows the same bowl, which has subsequently been donated to the Museum by Boak's daughter, Mrs. Winifred B. Comlossy.



Photo R. Banyash

## Collection Notes

This past December the Museum received a gift of glassware and pottery from Mrs. Winifred B. Comlossy. The gift, a group of seven Roman-period glass bowls and four Islamic pottery bowls, had originally belonged to her father, Arthur E. R. Boak, a professor of ancient history at the University from 1930 until his retirement in 1957. Boak had excavated at Karanis during the 1924-25 season as well as co-authoring and editing the final field reports of the Karanis seasons from 1924 to 1931.

We are pleased to have been given these objects, which have so strong a connection with a notable Kelsey Museum associate. One has only to look at the glassware to realize that it is from the Karanis area, most likely purchased by Boak from locals who had long been digging at ancient sites in the area under contract with a fertilizer manufacturer. Finds such as these had inspired Kelsey Museum excavators to investigate Karanis as a potentially rich source of information about Egyptian life in the Graeco-Roman period.

In another instance of materials "coming home" to the Kelsey, this past

year we received a group of photographs that had been uncovered in the dispersal of the estate of Margaret Thomas of Berkeley, California. One of the parties assisting in cataloguing the effects noticed that a large group of photographs were stamped with the University's identification and asked a friend in Ann Arbor to return them. Because the photographs were stamped with the name of a University department no longer in existence, the friend, Betty Sears, decided to offer them to the Graduate Library. The Library, however, was closed for the day when she arrived. Noting that the photographs had an archaeological theme, Mrs. Sears came to the Kelsey instead. It turned out that the photographs were originals from the Kelsey photographic archives and had been taken by the photographer George Swain in the 1920s. Needless to say, we were delighted at their return, especially since some of them were the only copies of our archive photographs. No one is quite sure how Margaret Thomas acquired these photographs. She may have borrowed them as a Michigan student at some point in the past. In any event, we are certainly pleased that they have found their way back to the Kelsey.

Robin Meador-Woodruff

## The Kelsey Museum Associates

The Kelsey Museum Associates help the Museum to acquire important objects, sponsor outreach and development activities, and provide general Museum support. The public is encouraged to join the Associates and participate in Museum activities. For further information call (313)763-3559 or (313)747-0441.

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Elaine Gazda

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## Calendar of Events

### Exhibition:

"The Beginning of Understanding":  
Writing in the Ancient World"

August 30, 1991-February 29, 1992

### Lecture:

"The Elixir of Memory and Wisdom"

by Professor T. Keith Dix, Assistant  
Professor of Classics, University of  
North Carolina, Greensboro, Septem-  
ber 13, 1991, in Auditorium D, Angell  
Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

Co-sponsored by the Michigan Council  
for the Humanities.

### Lecture:

(title to be announced)

by Professor R. Bruce Hitchner,  
University of Dayton, October 11, 1991,

in Tappan 180 at 4:00 p.m.

Co-sponsored by the Department of  
Classical Studies and by the Interde-  
partmental Program in Classical Art  
and Archaeology. A reception will  
follow at the Kelsey Museum.

### Lecture:

(title to be announced)

by Dottorressa Giuliana Tocco-Sciarelli,  
Superintendent of Antiquities and Fine  
Arts, Salerno, Italy, November 5, 1991,  
in Tappan 180 at 4:00 p.m.

Co-sponsored by the Office of Interna-  
tional Academic Affairs.

### Lecture:

"Human Activity and the Mesopo-  
tamian Landscape"

by T. J. Wilkinson, Assistant Director,  
British Archaeological Expedition to  
Iraq, November 19, 1991 (time and  
location to be announced).

Co-sponsored by the Archaeological  
Institute of America and the Interde-  
partmental Program in Classical Art  
and Archaeology.

### Benefit:

"The Kelsey and All That Jazz,"

January 31, 1992, in the Michigan  
League Ballroom at 9:00 p.m.

THE  
KELSEY  
MUSEUM  
of  
ARCHAEOLOGY

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