

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

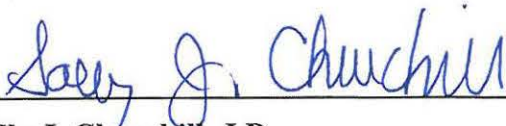
Margaret Cool Root, Ph.D., curator, Kelsey Museum of Archaeology and professor of classical and Near Eastern art and archaeology, Department of the History of Art, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2016.

Professor Root received her B.A. (1969), M.A. (1971), and Ph.D. (1976) degrees from Bryn Mawr College. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant curator and associate professor in 1978, and was promoted to associate curator and associate professor in 1984, and curator and professor in 1992. She served as chair of the Department of the History of Art from 1994-99.

Professor Root is best known as a specialist in the art and archaeology of the Achaemenid Persian Empire. Her innovative approach exploring “barbarian” influences led to many influential books and articles. Additionally, her publications and exhibitions for the Kelsey Museum ranged widely across the ancient civilizations of Greece, Rome, Egypt, and the Near East. In undergraduate teaching in the College and in graduate student teaching and mentoring for the Department of the History of Art and the Interdepartmental Program in Classical Art and Archaeology, she brought ancient Egypt and the Near East into the curricular mainstream. Her programmatic pedagogical initiatives emphasized issues of multiculturalism and the use of museums as sites for socially conscious engagement. Professor Root garnered much external funding, including from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Iran Heritage Foundation, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. Her national and international service included membership on the advisory boards of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (Washington) and the CNRS Groupe de Recherche, Réseau international d'études et de recherches achéménides (Paris), and on the editorial boards of several international academic series and journals.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and teacher for her thirty-eight years of dedicated service by naming **Margaret Cool Root, curator emerita and professor emerita of classical and Near Eastern art and archaeology.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

June 2016