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THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE



Report for 1966/67

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Members of the Oriental Institute's "Turkish Trip" at the exterior of the King's Gate, Boghazköy, the ancient Hittite capitol. Professor Hans Güterbock to the left. Photo courtesy Albert Newman.

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To the Members and Friends of the Oriental Institute

ROBERT MC C. ADAMS, DIRECTOR

As this is written, raiding and shelling across the Suez Canal in the wake of the Arab defeat by Israel still is continuing sporadically. The drumfire of UN debate also continues, although the threat of general war seemingly has been dispelled by the Great Powers' mutual avoidance of an explosive confrontation at Glassboro. Modified for the worse by the advances of modern technology, the agonizing theme of conflict remains as characteristic of the Near East as ever.

It is a poor time to comment on the lasting impact of recent events upon our program. Some signs of returning normalcy encourage us to hope for the best. The patient work of building scholarly contacts over generations can wither, however, not only in the heat of war-inspired popular passions but as a result of calculated acts of diplomacy. With the emergence of an overriding consciousness of nationhood, the encouragement or disruption of such contacts too easily is submerged in the arsenal of fair means and foul by which governments signal to one another in the realms of "higher" policy. Scholarship, we like to think, is international in spirit and cumulative in content. A crisis like the present one brutally reminds us how thin is the veneer of civility on which an institution like this must be founded.

In an immediate sense, it is a source of relief that those of our expeditions whose members were caught in the field by the onset of hostilities were able to terminate their work and depart in good order. Relief but not surprise; our people, after all, are old hands at this business. Effective field programs, however, are not turned off and on at will. Funds, students, assistance from specialists in related disciplines—all must trace their way down the pipeline for an extended period and, once diverted, are not quickly or easily regained. More fundamentally (if also somewhat more surprisingly, in light of popular stereotypes of what archeologists do) interruptions of almost any kind have an adverse effect on the caliber of research.

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Good field work does not involve merely a mindless grubbing in a particular ancient site while painstakingly recording everything that is encountered. Keen observation and integrity of recording are essential, but equally essential is the creative tension between evolving theoretical concerns and the ways which are found to amplify or replace them by carrying them "back to the drawing board" which in our discipline only field excavations can provide. Man being pre-eminently a problem-solving animal, once a particular chain of this type is broken, attention shifts to other issues. Uncertainties aroused by crises like the present one threaten to leave scholarly projects like great tree stumps, giving evidence of their vitality in a host of new shoots but for many years leaving a gap in the forest canopy.

Having just returned myself from an extended period of field reconnaissance, I have been made more acutely aware than ever of how vulnerable we are to shifting tides of official policy and popular opinion. To some degree this is entirely beyond our control, particularly in the wake of a major political upheaval. But it is also clear that there are respects in which we in this country have failed heretofore to take what steps are possible to accommodate ourselves to the unfulfilled but rising aspirations and general political ferment that have become permanent characteristics of the area in which we work.

Rising educational costs and costs of travel, for example, have virtually ended the flow of Near Eastern students and postgraduate scholars into our disciplines in American institutions. Not unreasonably, their governments tend increasingly to train them at home or at most send them to Europe, except for engineering and the natural sciences, where American leadership is undisputed. Yet without such students we are deprived of friendship and understanding in the generation to come, as well as gradually becoming isolated from the real conditions under which research in the area must be conducted. Equally important, pressures of time and funds generally have led us into a shortsighted view of the Near East as only the locus for the pursuit of our own research projects. Now the demand is growing in many countries for our participation there in seminars and training programs, as well as for various forms of cooperative research undertakings which serve the same purpose.

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Undeniably there are costs and problems associated with meeting these demands. But unless we learn to do so in a positive way, we soon may find that our potential educational contribution is no longer sought or valued—and that the opportunity to conduct research on our own initiative has been lost in the process.

At a time when news reports endlessly reiterate the fragility of international understanding, it is a pleasure to report even the modest efforts in this direction that can be made within the framework of humanistic scholarship and an institution like ours. In August, 1967, the United States is scheduled for the first time to be host to the International Congress of Orientalists. Ann Arbor is the locus that has been chosen for the twenty-seventh of these great triennial gatherings, and an attendance of more than two thousand national representatives and individual scholars is expected. Needless to say, the Oriental Institute will be well represented on that occasion. At its conclusion, furthermore, we will be hosts here in Chicago to the Rencontre Assyriologique, one of the important functional groupings of specialists in our field for whose deliberations the Congress itself would provide much too massive and formal a setting. For the Rencontre also, the forthcoming meeting of a hundred or so scholars will be its first on this side of the Atlantic Ocean.

International understanding of a different sort was at least one goal of the "Turkish Trip" undertaken last October by a group of Oriental Institute supporters under the initiative of a member of our Visiting Committee, Mr. W. Press Hodgkins. While main emphasis was placed on visiting some of the splendid ancient sites with which Turkey is so richly provided, the group's preliminary preparations included lectures ranging over the development of the country during all time periods. In the sequel, their journey led them deep into the Anatolian countryside, striking off from both the comforts and the clichés of the usual tourist itineraries. They and we owe a debt of thanks to Professor and Mrs. Hans G. Güterbock and to Dr. Ufuk Esin, who jointly provided leadership for the group, and to Dr. Richard L. Chambers, who joined it for a time as a specialist in Ottoman studies.

The sections of the report that follow largely speak for themselves. Since I

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have been engaged on a field research problem in Iraq for the entire latter half of the period it covers, there is little I can add from personal knowledge to introduce most of them. My heartfelt thanks are due to Profesor George R. Hughes, who took over as Associate Director during my absence and hence made that research possible.

Before turning to the substance of our recent activities, however, note should be taken of the loss during the year of two old friends and former colleagues. Carl H. Kraeling, Professor Emeritus of Hellenistic Archeology and my predecessor in this office from 1950 until 1960, passed away on November 14. More than to perhaps anyone else save for James Henry Breasted himself, the Institute owes its present strength of staff and program to Professor Kraeling's leadership during that critical decade, and it is entirely fitting that a Memorial Fellowship Fund has been inaugurated in his name by a number of his former friends and associates. Contributions to the fund have now reached a total of more than four thousand dollars, giving reason to hope that it may have a significant effect on the critical shortage of fellowship aid for graduate students in archeology from the Near East as well as the United States.

Another loss, later in the year, was that of William A. Irwin, who died on April 22, 1967, at the age of eighty-two. After earlier graduate work in Chicago, Professor Irwin returned to join the Oriental Institute staff in 1930 and served here until his retirement in 1950 as Professor of Old Testament Language and Literature.

It is appropriate also to note with regret at this time that this has been the final year of active service of our Museum Curator, Professor Pinhas Delougaz. In addition to his almost single-handed academic responsibility for the exhibition and growth of the Institute's museum collections, Professor Delougaz has continued the publication series on our pre-war expeditions to the Diyala area in Iraq, has maintained field programs in Iran and Israel, and has served as chairman of the University of Chicago's Committee on Archeological Studies. He plans to continue with not a few of these activities in his retirement, but we shall have difficulty in carrying on without him even in those that remain.

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It is a pleasant duty to report a generous grant from the Lassalle Foundation of New York owing to the interest of Dr. Edmundo Lassalle. The major portion of this grant in the area of ancient Egyptian and Coptic studies is making possible in 1966/67 and 1967/68 the publication of *The Beit el-Wali Temple of Ramesses II* in fulfilment of a part of our terminal obligation in the Nubian salvage program, and it is providing Lassalle Fellowships for two young men who are completing the work on their doctoral dissertations.

Finally, I should like to express our gratitude to Mrs. John Livingood and the group of volunteers she has organized, for the splendid contribution they have been making to the outreach of our Museum program into schools, clubs, and social groups, and the wider community. The growing interest reflected in membership and attendance figures, as well as the immediate success of the *Suq* or gift bazaar they have opened, are convincing enough, but the spirit of the group is not something which can be conveyed by figures alone. We are all in their debt for an infusion of purpose and vitality that demonstrates anew the importance of genuine two-way communication between the Oriental Institute and the society at large.

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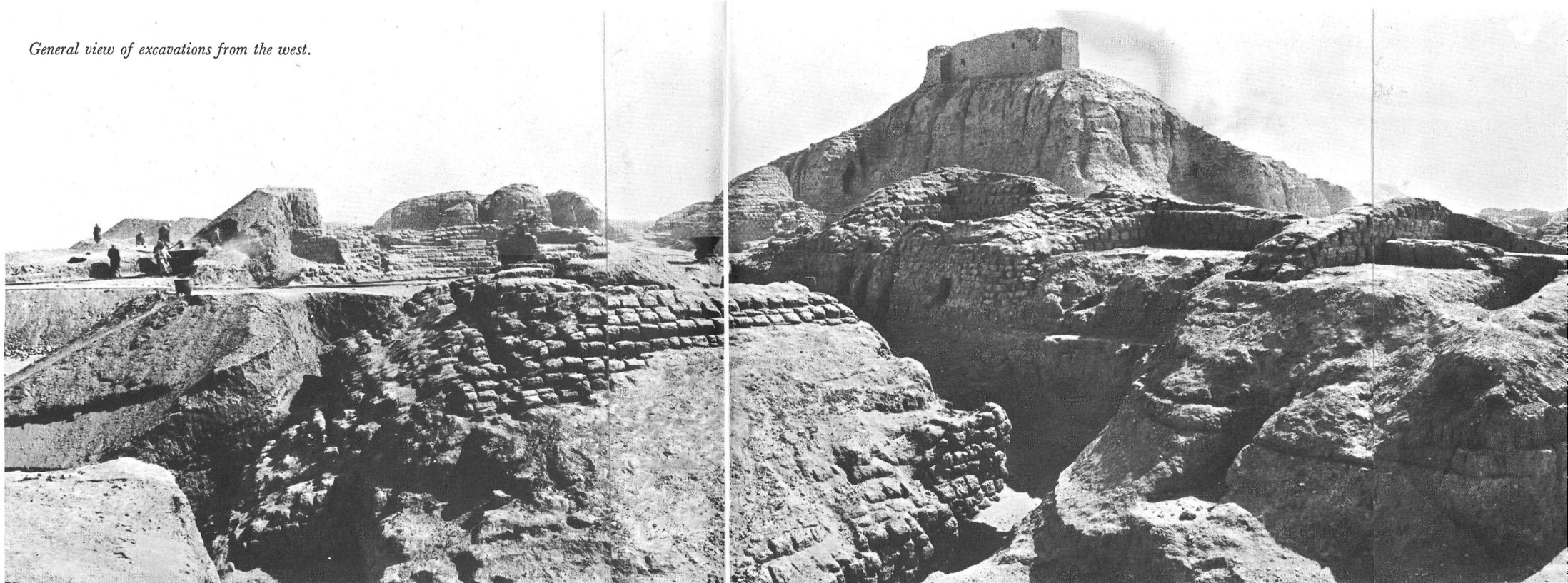
The Nippur Expedition

JAMES KNUDSTAD, FIELD DIRECTOR

Perhaps one of the longest seasons of continuous excavation in Mesopotamia in recent years closed in early June at Nippur. We began this, the Oriental Institute's tenth season at the site, in early October of 1966 as the second in a program of two seasons set aside for a concerted attack on the extensive remains of late period occupation still encumbering that monument which has received (and suffered) the brunt of traditional archeological interest at Nippur, the ziggurat and temple complex of Ekur.

The choice of the subject for so much work, admittedly determined in part by its position in the path of continuing interest in the Ekur, was in a sense a matter of calculated risk. This, as well as the aptness of the term *attack,* might be better appreciated from a look at the field as we first seriously approached it in the season of 1964/65. The contours of Temple Hill at Nippur, crowned as they are by the Ekur ziggurat, were as much the result of slow erosion of massive later construction as they were of deterioration of an ancient shrine perhaps last renewed by Assurbanipal in latest Assyrian times. The later ruins covered an area measuring roughly 500 by 700 feet surrounding the ziggurat and their depth buried nearly half the surviving height of the ziggurat. They had been excavated, recorded, mapped and removed in part by successive expeditions from the University of Pennsylvania (1889–1903) and (occasionally) by those of the University of Chicago (1948–63). Once excavated, they had been subjected to further dismantling and heavy dumping of debris as interest and exploration went deeper. The

General view of excavations from the west.



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judgment of the earliest excavators, based on the impulses and techniques of the archeology of seventy-five years ago, was briefly that the ruins comprised a fortress of mud brick utilizing the ziggurat as a citadel and that they could be dated to the Parthian occupation of Mesopotamia.

Against a background of recently increased interest in later historic periods such as the Parthian, uncertainties in the earlier field record as well as obviously unexplored areas in the ground at Nippur led to a reopening of the south quarter of the Parthian ruin in 1964/65. The "fortress" was found to be not one but a succession of three constructions, that is, two major renovations of an original not detected before. Using this information as a key to dig strategy, we proceeded in the season past to reopen virtually all that remained preserved and accessible of Parthian construction in the close vicinity of the ziggurat, following and correcting where we could a published plan of sixty years ago. The season from the outset was to be a long one. We had also learned, in the previous season, that our "archeology" would have to be a curious one, much in the manner of salvage work elsewhere. To follow robber holes is one thing; to rework one's predecessor's excavations with his field notes in hand is another. Problems of interpretation were to be numerous in keeping with the perversities in preservation left to us by the Pennsylvanians as well as the Parthians, and, as anticipated, the yield in stratified and meaningful artifacts was to be understandably less than it can be for fresh ground.

Our first discovery of the past season was that our three-phase theory for the architectural development of the complex was to be a very tricky key indeed. In contrast to the straightforward stack-up of levels found two years earlier in the south, we seemed to be exposing nothing but inconsistency and problematic rebuilding in our explorations and clearance in the north. If in this area what we thought by its character to be phase 1 construction should prove to be that, then subsequent construction above was at the same time founded deeper in many places than was phase 1. More embarrassing than this was our four-month argument with the subsequent construction, which, though clearly jointed and stratigraphically involved, absolutely refused to separate into a second and third phase. Added to this was the dis-

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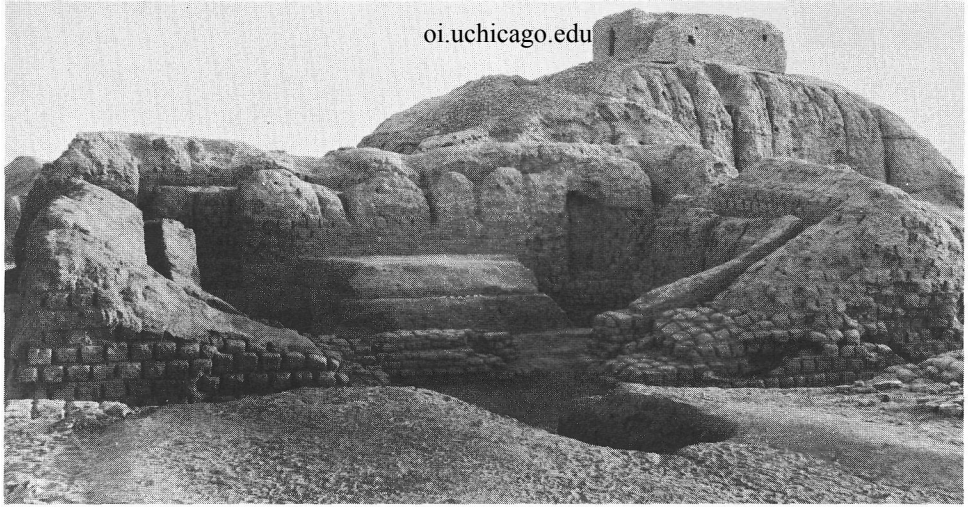
Eroded conditions to northwest of ziggurat showing exposed brickwork of the Ekur enclosure at the bottom, phase 1 outer wall to left above, and phase 3 walls to right and in background.

maying age of that stratified material which still remained; some 70 per cent of it was undeniably Early Dynastic pottery. Patterns began to emerge only after a great deal of seemingly useless digging. The pottery, so carefully reclaimed floor by floor, had been borrowed by the Parthians with earth fill from outside their walls for the neat renewal of those floors within. Phase 2, perhaps existing only as a change of plan within the bounds of phase 1, had been very nearly obliterated in the construction of phase 3, which had in turn enjoyed an architectural history all its own.

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It seems evident to us now, following such lengthy preliminaries, that phase 1 could be described as an initial effort to inclose the ruinous promontory of the ziggurat with a high mud-brick "fortification" wall generally 8 feet thick, about 100 yards to a side, and bearing both square and circular towers on its exterior. A gateway, perhaps not original, was found midway in the length of the northwest wall. The position and alignment of this wall squarely upon that of the ruinous Ekur inclosure walls were probably no accident. We have much evidence as well for a further fortification in the form of a high exterior terrace or rampart faced with baked brick which may have surrounded the wall and repeated its perimeter line of alternate straight faces and protruding towers. Within this inclosure and upon a leveled fill between it and the ziggurat the impressions of numerous reed *sarifa* dwellings were found, particularly in the south quarter, which suggest initial efforts to house a garrison. Their use seems to have been brief, for upon a thin accumulation of debris among them an organized arrangement of streets, corridors, and apartments was erected in mud brick to form much of the plan encountered seventy-five years ago and that level which we now consider as the second architectural phase. A heavy refacing of the ziggurat adding great buttresses to all four sides may have coincided with phase 2, as did major rebuilding of portions of the phase 1 outer wall. There is also evidence in the southwest wall for the possibility of a gateway there, perhaps leading to the Parthian temple found a short distance beyond in an earlier season. The gradual filling of the phase 2 complex with occupational debris helped save much that we have of it, for, upon its abandonment in preparation for phase 3, the builders leveled only portions (essentially on the north side of the ziggurat) that still stood above the new height reached. In over-all area, phase 3 was to become something over three times as large. This required stepping-down the slopes of the mound already amassed and establishing heavier walls to retain an expanded interior based on phase 2 walls and a platform of mud brick. Erosion has been most heavy on this last of great projects on Temple Hill, and as a result much of the interior and any evidence for gates may not have remained for recovery by the earliest excavators. Those parts traced by them and left standing for our exploration were the

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Phase 3 large hall with double walls from north, with ziggurat in background.

heavy platform and outer walls, parts of a composition of large halls and corridors in the north quarter, and fragments of yet another refacing of the much altered ziggurat. Of architectural note in phase 3 is the likelihood of preparations for (but apparently no completion of) an *iwan* or three-sided and vaulted reception hall of modest proportions facing an open court in the north quarter. That this might have existed already at Parthian Nippur may prove interesting to the architectural historian.

Finds during the past season were far more encouraging than those of the previous one, although admittedly scanty. A respectable collection of pottery gleaned from all three phases compares well with earlier collections from the Parthian temple (Nippur), Seleucia, and Dura Europus. Differences in type and occurrence between top and bottom levels were slight and only helped to bracket further the Parthian occupation to within the first and second centuries A.D. It should be noted that, wherever explored, phase 1 rested directly on much earlier material, that is, Assyrian, Kassite, or Ur III construction, and that very little if any hints of Seleucid or Sassanian presence were found. A small collection of stratified coins agreed with the pottery on the question of builders and occupants. On the basis of coins, phase 1 cannot have been much earlier than A.D. 82/83. A majority of the coins were minted late in the first or early in the second centuries A.D. In addition, several nice examples of Parthian figurines in bone, stone, and molded clay were found, some in classic motif and others in a simple geometric style. One can regularly pick

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View from ziggurat of early clearance to northwest.

Aramaic incantation bowls from the surface of Nippur, and a number of these turned up again. Of much more interest, however, will be a surprising collection of sherds and pots bearing Aramaic texts which were recovered from stratified context within the Parthian complex.

The choice of the term "complex" is a cautionary one. We must still admit to uncertainty concerning the primary function of such a fortified establishment at Nippur. Large portions of the plans for each of the phases remain missing. The form and the function of the predominant feature in the composition of each phase, the ziggurat as altered each time, remain very uncertain. Whether the Parthians were building fort, palace, or shrine, they seem to have created something unique to our knowledge thus far.

Mr. Yasin Mahmoud, representing the Iraqi Department of Antiquities at Nippur, now holds the record there for length of residence with a foreign expedition in the field. Dr. and Mrs. Giorgio Buccellati served as staff epigrapher/photographer and excavation supervisor, respectively. Misses Diane Taylor and Judi Franke also supervised excavation, Diane doubling as epigrapher/archivist and Judi as photographer. Mr. Edward Keall served as staff archeologist, and the writer as architect and field director.

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The Oriental Institute Euphrates Valley Expedition

MAURITS VAN LOON, DIRECTOR

Through the generous support of the National Science Foundation the Euphrates Valley Expedition is carrying out its second campaign of excavation in that part of Syria which is to be flooded upon completion of the projected dam in the Euphrates. The first campaign uncovered what seems to be a pre-agricultural village culture of the eighth millennium B.C.

This time the Expedition's aim is to throw light on events in the late third and early second millennium B.C. Throughout the Near East this was a time of upheavals apparently caused by, or at least coinciding with, a shift in the balance between nomad and settled world. At some city sites the evidence points to an interruption of urban life. On the other hand, settlements of this period are found reaching far into the steppe, normally the preserve of the nomads.

In order to gather information from both sides, excavation of a large mound just inside the settled zone is to be followed by exploration of possible camp sites near springs in the adjoining steppe.

Under the large mound, Tell Selenkaḥiye, fifty miles east of Aleppo, we expect to find a city which flourished throughout this turbulent period, despite several destructions and rebuildings. Its fortification walls are visible as low ridges above ground. Large buildings in two or three superimposed levels were cut through recently when an irrigation canal was straightened.

Digging started on March 4 at four points simultaneously: the city wall, the burial grounds along the river terrace south of the mound, and the two banks of the canal cut through the mound. One bank, already encumbered except for a narrow strip, was chosen for a vertical sampling of the materials we may expect from the successive phases in the occupation of the mound. The other bank was chosen for the horizontal exposure of a representative building.

The mud-brick city wall proves to have been founded on stone blocks up to 5 feet long and to have been rebuilt at least once after burning.

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Burial with bronze pins over the ribs and silver frontlet on the skull, excavated south of Tell Selenkahiye.

The burial grounds have yielded eleven graves to date, in each of which twenty-five or more pottery vessels had been placed. Bronze pins and daggers usually lay on or near the skeleton. One skull wore a silver leaf on the forehead. Stone groups, possibly grave markers, were associated with two graves.

The vertical sounding is supplying a large sample of domestic pottery, as well as plant remains turned to charcoal in the violent—presumably warlike—destruction of successive building levels.

The horizontal exposure has so far yielded the portico, service rooms, and possible staircase of a heavy-walled, white-plastered building, in which at least one victim was trapped when it collapsed. A bronze adze and a bronze pin were lying near his prone skeleton. A large cylinder seal of local style had fallen into the portico entrance. A child victim and a smaller seal of the same type were found in part of the same complex, encountered in the vertical sounding.

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The expedition staff included, besides the writer, three archeologists who studied at the Oriental Institute (Rudolph H. Dornemann, Alfred J. Hoerth, and Stanislao Loffreda), as well as specialists in early animal and plant remains. Operations continued until the end of May; in that month part of the team explored the supposed habitat of third-millennium B.C. nomads in the steppe south of the Euphrates.

It is hoped that samples of carbon and other organic materials, as well as of the artifacts found, can be brought back for study with the permission of the Syrian Antiquities Department, which is anxious that the remains of early cultures now threatened with submersion be utilized for a better understanding of Syria's past.

White plastered room excavated on Tell Selenkahiye, skeleton of man killed by fallen debris.



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Surface Reconnaissance of Southern Iraq

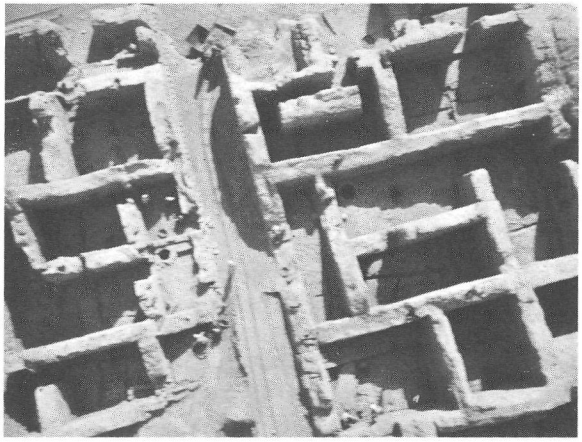
ROBERT MC C. ADAMS

Ancient Mesopotamia was a land always dependent on irrigation, its towns and cities hugging the banks of the major watercourses. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers followed naturally meandering courses across its plains, dividing and rejoining in a number of shifting branches that periodically raised the surface of the land when they spilled over their banks. The towns themselves, built largely of mud brick, moved, were destroyed or abandoned, and then from time to time were resettled.

The problem of working out and interpreting this complex sequence of changes is one for which surface reconnaissance rather than excavation is the primary procedure on which the historical geographer or archeologist must rely. Working from aerial photographs of the virtually unmapped area has involved an exhaustive mapping of physical irregularities that suggest old canal levees, river channels, and sites of former habitation. Then the latter have needed to be carefully scrutinized from the ground, often at the pains of long hours of travel on foot or in a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Collections of surface sherds permitted dates of occupation to be assigned to the ancient sites and hence also to the watercourses along whose banks they were situated. An innovation in technique this year was the use of what is best described as a kind of kite for supplementary low-level aerial photographs. This device, known as a Jalbert Parafoil, was originally designed to carry meteorological instruments but was adapted in the Institute's laboratory to the new payload of a radio-controlled camera.

In the season just completed, surveys were focused on the region around the ancient city of Uruk. This was one of the earliest and greatest of the Sumerian urban centers, and an expedition from the German Archaeological Institute has excavated there for many years. The reconnaissance was sponsored jointly by the Oriental Institute and the German Archaeological Institute, with Dr. Hans J. Nissen representing the latter in the conduct of field work. Our initiation of the project was partly made possible by assistance

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Completion of excavations in apartments along a street within the south quarter of the Parthian fortress in Nippur—taken from the Jalbert Parafoil.

from the Baghdad School of the American Schools of Oriental Research, of which I was Annual Professor during 1966/67.

Major findings of the reconnaissance fall into several categories. More than 450 perviously unknown sites were recorded, in a remote and difficult area that today includes extensive belts of sand dunes, much empty steppe peopled only by nomads, and areas of seasonal swamp along the rivers. The first climax of settlement seems to have occurred in the fourth millennium B.C., with literally hundreds of villages and small towns in areas now largely abandoned. By 3000 B.C. or soon after, a process of consolidation was well under way, with rapid growth of a few major, fortified centers like Uruk, while the size and number of outlying settlements rapidly dwindled.

Later climaxes of settlement, characterized by different settlement and irrigation patterns, also have been recorded. Perhaps the densest population of the region was attained during the Parthian period, roughly at the time of Christ. Some centuries later the abandonment began in the southern part of the area, in response to social or environmental pressures whose nature is still open to doubt. Arab conquerors, coming in the seventh century A.D., seem to have hastened the process of destruction in this area as they focused their attention on building new cities elsewhere.

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Origins of the Old Akkadians

IGNACE J. GELB

Hand in hand with the study of ancient Mesopotamian society and economy, the collection of materials now scattered in museums throughout the world has continued. Of the two volumes of Old Akkadian texts now being readied for publication, one containing materials from the Louvre in Paris, the other from the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, the latter has led to a new and important interest, namely, the question of the original home of the Akkadians. One of the strange features of Babylonian archeology is that, while the Sumerian southern Babylonia has been well explored, the Akkadian north has not. Thus in the south, such sites as Nippur, Ur, Uruk, Eridu, and Lagash have given us a relatively good picture of the Sumerian people, language, and civilization. By contrast, in the north, the oldest levels of Babylon have not yet been reached, Sippar has hardly been touched, and Kish, excavated years ago by a joint expedition of the Field Museum in Chicago and the Ashmolean in Oxford, remains unfinished and partly unpublished.

Of these latter sites, the Kish area offers by far the greatest promise. As a preliminary to the projected study of the Old Akkadians, centering on Kish, I visited Iraq in the summer of 1966 at the invitation of Dr. Faisal al-Wailly, a former student who is now Director-General of Antiquities in Iraq. The emerging project is a complex, long-term one, involving the cooperation of several institutions and individuals in Chicago, Oxford, and Baghdad, as well as the establishment of an order of priorities for its component parts. Of most immediate importance was the establishment of a Kish archive center in Chicago, and this is now almost completed.

As a second phase, the topographic survey of the Kish area is already in progress. Building on earlier studies of the area by Professor Adams and Dr. Vaughn Crawford ten years ago, Mr. McGuire Gibson carried out an intensive survey of the region around Kish in the fall of 1966. Sherd collections were made from more than one hundred mounds within a radius of ten miles or so of the site. At the conclusion of this reconnaissance, brief soundings

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Sounding at Umm-el Jir. Earlier plano-convex brick wall used in Old Akkadian building.

were made at Umm el-Jir, apparently the site known as Umm el-Jerab from which a Field Museum–Oxford University expedition obtained important Akkadian tablets in 1932. Jointly sponsored by the Oriental Institute and the Directorate General of Antiquities, this sounding was co-directed by Mr. Gibson and Dr. Subhi Anwar, with Mr. Douglas Kennedy as general assistant.

Further ahead looms a program of publication of the Kish materials, archeological and philological. We also anticipate more thorough exploration of the Kish region, as well as possible trial excavations in a number of sites.

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Excavations at Semna South, First Season 1966/67

LOUIS V. ŽABKAR, FIELD DIRECTOR

During the 1966/67 season the Oriental Institute Expedition to Sudanese Nubia began excavation of a pharaonic fortress and an adjacent cemetery at Semna South, fifty miles south of Wadi Halfa.

Less than a mile from the greater fortress of Semna West with which it seems to have been connected by means of a wall or walls, the fort at Semna South is built on flat ground and on a square plan. Its fortifications consist of a large stone glacis, a ditch, and then a buttressed girdle wall separated from the ditch by a wide berm. The area enclosed within the girdle wall is quite small, some 35 meters square.

A stairway of massive stones, its upper part protected on each side by stone masonry, descends from the northwest corner of the inner area of the fort and tunnels under the glacis to what was then the water's edge.



A bronze cup engraved with lotus flower buds from Semna South, Ptolemaic period.

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At the base of the northern glacis, silt has accumulated to a height of several meters, indicating that the Nile level rose subsequent to the building of the fortress. The effect of this higher Nile level was also observed within the excavated part of the ditch, where, in the accumulated silt, sherds of New Kingdom pottery were found. Although this higher Nile level may well have been a local phenomenon, it may also necessitate a re-examination of the opinion that since the Middle Kingdom the Nile level has gradually receded.

The course of a reveted bank which connects the south corner of the fort with a near hill terrace has been established. The apparent lowness of this wall and its relatively weak construction would indicate that the wall was not meant for defensive purposes. These characteristics of the wall, together with traces of temporary human habitation within the area enclosed by the wall and the southern glacis of the fort, would rather indicate that the area so enclosed—an annex, as it were, to the fort of Semna South—may have served as a depot, a commercial exchange base, or a temporary human settlement or camp. This complex character of Semna South, that is, fort proper with annex, or possibly annexes, will need to be kept in mind when evaluating its function in the system of Second Cataract fortifications.

The excavation of the cemetery established the predominant occurrence of Meroitic tombs but also revealed—as is frequently the case in Nubian cemeteries—that within the same area tombs belonging to the X-group and, to a smaller extent, to the Christian period, are present.

Although relatively few tombs have been found intact, some significant finds have been recovered. Among these are bronze and copper vessels, toilet equipment, beadwork of various types, and some unusual foreign imports, such as a bronze cup engraved with lotus flowerbuds (see photo), and a glass ointment jar. The pottery is represented by a few complete "biscuit"-ware cups, bottles naturalistically decorated with floral and animal designs, some large well-made utility ware, and pottery fashioned in imitation of foreign imports that came to Nubia from or through Egypt.

From the some three hundred and fifty graves excavated have come the remains of about four hundred and fifty individuals. Preliminary measurements and records of these remains have been made, and samples of hair and

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tissue have been secured. The remains have been cleaned and stored in numbered bags for further measurement.

In spite of the fact that the cemetery has been plundered in both ancient and modern times, the funerary gifts recovered from the graves, the layout of the mastaba-type tombs, and the presence of foreign imports and their imitations give the impression that the Meroitic community at Semna South was not only large in number but that it had a standard of living which favorably compares with other Meroitic communities in the region of the Second Cataract and that it maintained trade relations with Greco-Roman Egypt.

The staff at Semna South consisted of the following members: the Field Director; Dr. Ronald J. Williams, Senior Field Egyptologist; Mrs. Ronald Williams, House Manager; Mr. Gerhard Haeny, Architect; Miss Joan Karaganis, Anatomical Recorder; Mr. John Callender, Field Archeologist; Mr. John R. French, Photographer; Mrs. John French, Workroom Assistant; Mr. Stephano Bianca, Second Architect; and Mr. Ibrahim Salama Hassan, Paymaster, Mechanic and Driver.

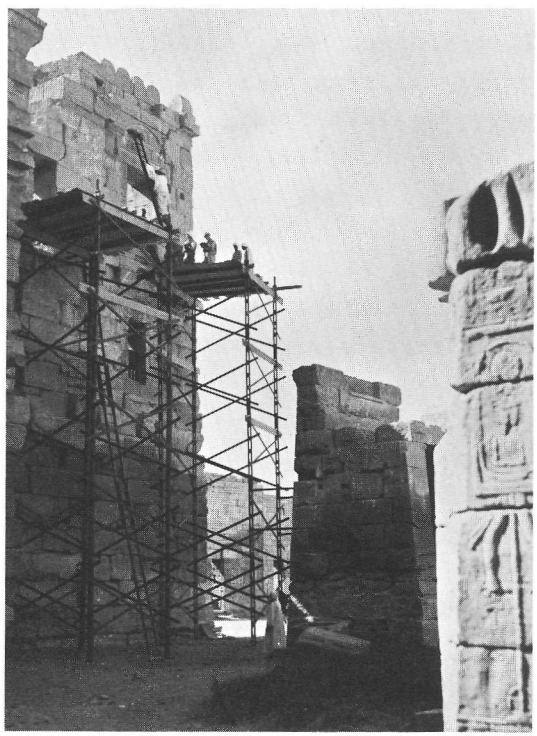
Bottles decorated with floral and animal designs, Meroitic period.



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The Epigraphic Survey

CHARLES FRANCIS NIMS, FIELD DIRECTOR



Work at the High Gate, Medinet Habu.

The recording of scenes and inscriptions from various monuments in the Luxor area continues quietly year after year, and the annual reports may seem very like one another. However, progress is being made, and in the 1966/67 season a large number of drawings were completed.

At the High Gate of Medinet Habu the copies of all the reliefs have been finished. The accompanying photograph shows the 37-foot scaffolds used in the final work. It proved expedient in most instances to reach the remaining

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23 feet with ladders on top of the scaffolds rather than build these higher. We must still consider the painted designs on the reveals of the windows; all this paint work is badly rubbed and faded. Provisionally, we have selected the two best-preserved examples and will work on these immediately on our return. There are several photographs of details and of over-all views yet to be taken. Work on the publication is already under way.

One of the troubling problems in drawing the reliefs is the recarving of most of the figures of Ramses III. Long study has been made of these changes, but we have not always been able to satisfy ourselves as to what was the final version. The inscription accompanying one of the last scenes drawn tells that the girls shown in the harem scenes are the king's daughters. We had suspected this but had previously been unable to prove it. Another badly damaged scene proved, on careful study, to show a stringed trio of the princesses playing before their father, whom they address by his nickname, "Sesi."

In the Tomb Chapel of Kheruef most of the scenes and inscriptions have been completed, though there are a few areas still needing further study. Among these are the over 170 fragments from the eight lines of vertical inscriptions originally on two pillars in the columned hall. These were photographed to a single scale, and through the studies of David Larkin, a graduate student of the Oriental Institute who was on the staff this season, a large number of these were identified as to the lines to which they belonged. By using the photographs these fragments will be further studied this summer.

On the south wall of the entrance passage of this chapel the first scene shows Amenhotep IV, whose figure was anciently expunged, presenting a great offering to the god Re-Harakhti. Before the king and above the offerings is a squared-off panel, with thirteen by fourteen divisions. It had been anciently erased, we believe by the Amarna zealots. A few evident traces had led previous observers to believe that this was the usual table of offerings. When we began to study the traces, we were surprised to discover that instead it was a so-called "crossword puzzle," an inscription which was read both horizontally and vertically. This is the earliest example known of this rare type of inscription. Because of the extensive damage we can never recover the

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full content of this inscription, but our study of the remaining traces makes certain that we can restore accurately some considerable part.

At the base of the walls of the passage are two prayers to Re and one to Osiris, also erased by the Amarna protagonists. Here we have followed the clues of the traces and through the study of many published and unpublished similar texts have been able to make out all but a few phrases. Each prayer will be published in two copies, one showing the traces we have discerned and the other the text as restored from our researches. Visiting scholars, who at first could make nothing out of these damaged areas, were convinced of the effectiveness of our epigraphic procedure.

About the middle of December, 1966, we resumed our work on the Temple of Khonsu, in Karnak, with attention given to the walls of the first hypostyle hall. Here the reliefs were made under the High Priest Herihor, who pictured himself presenting offerings to the gods in at least one scene in each of the six sections. He occupied the position heretofore taken by the king. He tells us that the decoration of this room was done "at the instruction of Ramses XI." It was only in the last scenes carved in this hall, about the north doorway, that Herihor proclaimed himself king. The rough execution of the reliefs, in contrast to the carefully carved ones at Medinet Habu, presented new problems to both artists and epigraphers. Our new artists, John Romer and Grace Huxtable, were engaged in this endeavor. The former had just graduated from the Royal Academy of Art in London; the latter has had long experience as an illustrator and as an archeological draughtsman.

The other members of the staff were the Field Director, Edward Wente, Carl DeVries, and David Larkin as Egyptologists, joined by John Callender in January after his completion of the work of our expedition in the Sudan. Each of the permanent staff of Egyptologists always has several tasks. Wente has been Librarian for several years, keeping the library current with the new publications and searching the sales catalogues to fill gaps on the shelves. DeVries has assisted in photography and will have full responsibility for this in the coming season. Labib Habachi spent two months with us, continuing his study of the history of Kheruef and his Tomb Chapel. Reginald Coleman and Leslie Greener, veterans at Chicago House, completed the staff of artists.

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Greener retired at the end of the academic year. His enthusiastic interest in the work of the expedition and in ancient Egypt in general, witnessed by his popular publications, has contributed much to Chicago House, and he will be greatly missed. John Healey continued his efficient supervision of the plant, of which he has been in charge for thirty-five years. Myrtle Nims continued to serve as supervisor of the household, the traditional task of the wife of the Field Director.

There were fewer guests from among the members and friends of the Oriental Institute during the season, in part because of the larger number of staff and wives in residence. These averaged fifteen throughout the season. Even though we are not always able to accommodate guests, all who are interested in ancient Egypt are invited to visit us, to see our work and facilities, and to join us at tea.

Members of the staff at Chicago House, Luxor, taken in the courtyard. From left to right: Myrtle Nims, Doris Healey, John Romer, Elizabeth Romer, Mary Wilson, Charles Nims, Grace Huxtable, David Larkin, Edward Wente, Marie Coleman, Reginald Coleman, John Callender, Carl De Vries, Derek Healey, Leslie Greener, John Healey.



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Oriental Astronomy and Astrology

DAVID PINGREE

In the middle of the ninth century an astrologer from Balkh, Abû Maʿshar, published a series of works in Arabic in which he claimed to have recovered, from a manuscript buried by Ṭahmûrath in Iṣfahân, the original, divinely inspired, antediluvian astronomy from which the astronomical systems of all postdiluvian nations—Babylon, Egypt, Greece, India, and Sasanian Iran—were derived. Accompanying his mathematical astronomy was an elborate treatment of the principles of historical astrology. In fact, Abû Maʿshar's astronomy is a mixture of the Greek *Almagest* of Ptolemy, of the Indian *Zîj al-Sindhind,* and of the Sasanian *Zîj al-Shâh,* while his historical astrology is largely derived from lost Sasanian sources.

The major texts in which Abû Maʿshar propounded his weird theories, the *Zîj al-hazârât* and the *Kitâb al-ulûf,* are both lost. But I have succeeded in reconstructing their main ideas from their numerous fragments and summaries in a book entitled *The Thousands of Abû Maʿshar,* which is being published this year by the Warburg Institute. The interest of these reconstructions lies not only in the peculiar and surprisingly influential theories of Abû Maʿshar but also in the insight which they give into the obscure and complex problem of Sasanian and Indian influence on early ʿAbbâsid science. The book is the beginning of a series to be authored by Professor E. S. Kennedy of the American University of Beirut and myself on the Arabic sources for our knowledge of Sasanian astronomy and astrology.

As the basic texts do not survive in Pahlavî, this is the only way in which we can attempt to understand what the Iranians knew about the stars before the Arab conquest. But a superabundance of material in Sanskrit informs us in the greatest possible detail of the history of the exact sciences in India, where they developed in successive phases of Babylonian, Greek, and Islamic influences. As a preliminary step in the investigation of this vast and still largely unexplored field I have been preparing a catalogue of the over 35,000 Sanskrit manuscripts of works on astronomy, astrology, and mathematics of

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which I know. This will eventually be published with extensive notices of the authors involved and of their treatises. A first instalment, a catalogue and analysis of the numerous manuscripts of Sanskrit astronomical tables in American libraries, is to appear shortly in the *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*. An associated venture is the editing, translating, and commenting upon important texts in Greek, Arabic, and Sanskrit. Already in press are editions of the Byzantine translation of Abû Maʿshar's *Kitâb taḥâwîl sinî al-mawâlîd,* of Sphujidhvaja's *Yavanajâtaka,* and of Bhojarâja's *Vidvajjanavaḷlabha.* Several others are in an advanced stage of preparation.

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The Nubian Campaign

JOHN A. WILSON, MEMBER UNESCO
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

When General Forrest gave as his prescription for strategic success, "Git thar fust with the most," he certainly was not thinking of archeology. And the Oriental Institute was not thinking of the general's advice when it embarked upon the international campaign to save the antiquities of Nubia, threatened by the erection of the High Dam along the Nile. As it turned out, the Institute was there first and has continued with the most. Dr. Hughes attended the preliminary Unesco study meeting in Cairo in October, 1959. Dr. Žabkar still hopes to return to the excavation of Semna South in the Sudan next winter. In between runs the roll of places which the Institute's expedition investigated, under the vigorous direction of Dr. Seele: Kalabshah, Beit el-Wali, Serra East, Dorginarti, Qustul, Ballana, and Qasr el-Wizz. The Epigraphic Expedition moved from Luxor to copy the neat little temple of Beit el-Wali. That publication should appear soon. The west hall of the Institute's museum shows the brilliant display of Dr. Seele's two seasons at Qustul and Ballana. The Institute was the first institution to take to the field in answer to the Unesco appeal of March, 1960; and its record of six seasons, with the prospect of a seventh, is unsurpassed.

You might say that we had to. A seventy-year reputation was at stake. The forty-year record of Chicago House at Luxor was at stake. When the emergency was first announced, other institutions, also reluctant to shift gears, wanted to know whether the Oriental Institute was going to participate or to plead more pressing obligations. That sense of obligation might be true. It is also true that Egyptology in particular and archeology in general received a great stimulation from the campaign, so that selfish interests were served as a by-product. Under what other conditions could we have given a half-dozen graduate students field experience?

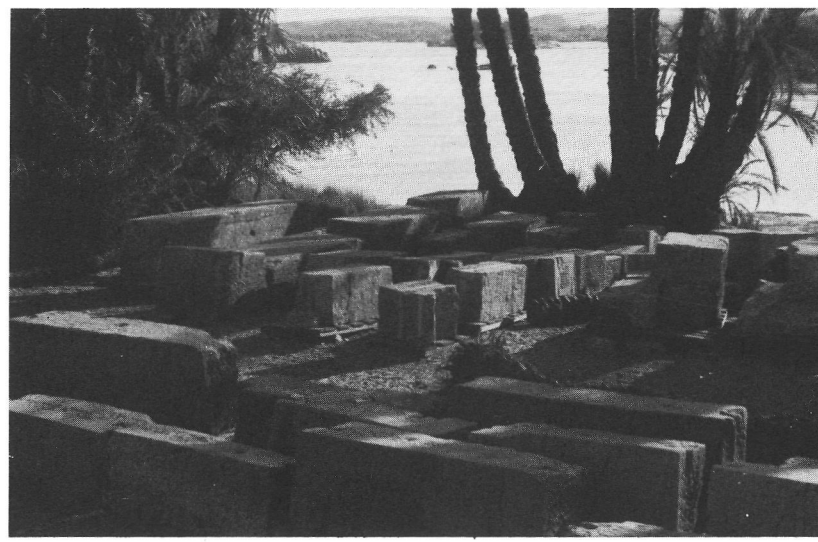
Some of the pieces found by these expeditions were unique, beautiful, or historically important. The range of materials, particularly the pottery, is

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wide and detailed. The history of Nubia from prehistoric times into the Christian Era should be brilliantly illustrated by these pieces. Most of the excavation was financed by American government credits, made available in Egypt. Publication is another problem. Dr. Seele urgently needs money, so that he and his assistants may prepare these thousands of objects for publication.

The international and national aspects of the campaign also fell into the Institute's responsibility. One illustration is Dr. Seele's visit to the White House, to present Mrs. Johnson with a Nubian vessel, in publicizing the need for additional funds to save the temples at Abu Simbel. I have been involved in the work of two international and two American committees over the past seven years. The United States National Committee for the Preservation of the Nubian Monuments drafted the proposals which resulted in the allocation of $16,000,000 to the campaign—$1,500,000 to aid American archeologi-

Blocks of the dismantled Nubian temple of Dendur lie on the Island of Elphantine at Assuan ready to be transported to the U.S. as a gift from the U.A.R. Photo courtesy of William R. Boyd.



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cal expeditions, $2,500,000 for the moving of smaller temples in Egypt and the Sudan, and $12,000,000 for Abu Simbel.

The international committees have been a fascinating and rewarding experience. Representatives from the United Arab Republic, two Communist countries, and eight Western countries have served on the committees best known to me. There was no politics, no interplay of power pressures. There was a job to be done, and there was a faithful harmony in meeting that job, both on the advisory committee, which met in a Cairo hotel to plan the entire program for Egypt, and on the "landscaping group,"' which traveled on a boat to supervise the reconstruction of Abu Simbel. In each case we came to make proud little jokes about "the spirit of Nubia"—the wholehearted dedication to cultural goals uniting persons of divergent backgrounds. Would that we could apply "the spirit of Nubia" to other problems of the area!

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Publications

ELIZABETH B. HAUSER, EDITORIAL SECRETARY

The past year saw the publication of four works: Nabia Abbott, *Studies in Arabic Literary Papyri,* Vol. II ("OIP" LXXVI); Pinhas Delougaz, Harold D. Hill, and Seton Lloyd, *Private Houses and Graves in the Diyala Region* ("OIP" LXXXVIII); Donald E. McCown and Richard C. Haines, *Nippur,* Vol. I ("OIP" LXXVIII); and Edward F. Wente, *Late Ramesside Letters* ("Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization" No. 33).

The first two volumes of the Nubian Expedition are now in press. They cover operations conducted jointly in 1960/61 by the Swiss Institute in Cairo and the Oriental Institute. For the financing of Volume I we are deeply indebted to the generosity of Dr. Edmundo Lassalle. This volume records the reliefs and inscriptions of the Beit el-Wali temple of Ramesses II, while Volume II is a report on excavations in the same area of Nubia.

Nubians bring ebony, a leopard skin, monkeys, a leopard, a young gazelle and a giraffe to present them to Ramesses II (From a relief in the Beit-el-Wali Temple in Nubia).



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Also in press is Professor Richard T. Hallock's *Persepolis Fortification Tablets* ("OIP" XCII), and two other volumes representing work by the Persepolis Expedition will soon be ready for the printer. *Persepolis*, Vol. III ("OIP" LXX), by the late Professor Erich F. Schmidt, records the results of the excavations at Naqsh-i Rustam, describes the rock-cut tombs of Darius the Great and his successors, and gives a survey of all known rock reliefs of the Sasanian kings. In his *Aramaic Ritual Texts from Persepolis* ("OIP" XCI) Professor Raymond A. Bowman discovers that the highest generals in the armies of Xerxes and Artaxerxes I participated in the religious ceremonies involving the preparation and drinking of the sacred intoxicating drink made from the haoma plant. Final preparatory studies for this volume were undertaken by Professor Bowman on a trip to Iran in the fall of 1966.

Another work which is in press is Professor Louis V. Zabkar's *Study of the Ba Concept in Ancient Egyptian Texts* ("Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization" No. 34). The author examines anew the contexts of the Egyptian word "ba," usually translated "soul," and concludes that the Egyptians never

Professor Raymond A. Bowman, Chairman of the Department of Oriental Languages and Civilizations, is greeted by the Shah of Iran at a reception for Iranologists in Teheran.



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considered the "ba" as the spiritual element in man but rather that it represented the man himself, that is, the totality of his physical and psychic capacities.

Two new numbers in Professor I. J. Gelb's "Materials for the Assyrian Dictionary" series are in production, *Sargonic Texts in the Louvre* (No. 4) and *Sargonic Texts from the Kish Area* (No. 5).

Soon to be published by the University of Chicago Press is a volume entitled *Letters from Mesopotamia,* by Professor A. Leo Oppenheim. This anthology of official, business, and private letters is intended to convey to the reader a more intimate and varied image of Mesopotamian civilization than that offered by the readily available translations of epic texts, royal inscriptions, and law codes. It contains translations of 150 letters dating from the time of King Sargon of Akkad (about 2334–2279 B.C.) to the Persian period (beginning in 539 B.C.) and coming from Mesopotamia proper and regions to the west, including Asia Minor, Cyprus, and Egypt.

Finally, we call attention to *The Discovery of Egypt* (Viking Press; New York, 1966) by Leslie Greener, who until his recent retirement was an artist member of the Epigraphic Survey at Chicago House in Luxor. This is truly a fascinating history of man's growing and changing interest in the antiquities of Egypt. The story runs from a half-legendary son of Ramesses II through the Greeks and Romans and the early European travelers down to the death in 1881 of Auguste Mariette, founder of the Egyptian Department of Antiquities.

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Volunteer Programs

MRS. JOHN LIVINGOOD, MUSEUM SECRETARY

DOCENTS

Two groups, totaling 58 men and women, have been trained as volunteer docents by members of the Institute's academic staff since the program's inception in January, 1966. The course requires two hours of study of the Museum and its objects with two-hour lectures each week for eight consecutive weeks.

We are grateful to Dr. Leslie Freeman of the Department of Anthropology of the University of Chicago, who gave an informative lecture to the docents on the prehistoric paintings of France and Spain exhibited in the Museum in November.

Since the completion of the first course, the docents have guided more than 1,200 scheduled tours on Tuesdays through Saturdays. In addition, they have taken through the Museum many unscheduled groups and thousands of individuals. Many expressions of appreciation have been received, and we anticipate a continuing expansion of the program. A third course will be conducted in the fall of 1967 with Mrs. R. DePencier as Chairman.

At the invitation of Professor Helene Kantor, the docents from the Cincinnati Museum of Art visited the Oriental Institute. The exchange of ideas

Dr. George Hughes giving a lecture on Egyptian history to future docents in Breasted Hall.



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On a conducted tour of the Museum, two Chicago school children show delight in the statue of Horus, the Egyptian falcon god.

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between the Cincinnati and the Institute's docents was so stimulating and profitable that plans are being made for the Institute's docents to visit museums in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia.

VOLUNTEER DOCENTS OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE, 1967

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Mrs. Sanford Blum, *Hubbard Woods*
Mrs. J. R. DePencier, *Chicago*
Mrs. Jay Erens, *Chicago*
Mrs. Paul Farber, *Chicago*
Mrs. Russell Fernald, *Downers Grove*
Mrs. L. E. Fisher, *Chicago*
Mrs. Joseph Fontana, *Chicago*
Mrs. David Foulser, *Chicago*
Mrs. Richard Frank, *Chicago*
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Mrs. James Spiker, *Hinsdale*
Mrs. Lester Stephens, *Hinsdale*
Mrs. Harry Waddington, *Chicago*
Mrs. Peter L. Wentz, *Chicago*
Mrs. Gordon Williams, *Flossmoor*

SPECIAL TOURS

To create interest in and give knowledge of the Oriental Institute, special tours of the Museum have been arranged by Mrs. Edward Hutchens, chairman, at four dollars per person. These consist of lunch at the Quadrangle Club, the faculty club of the University of Chicago, a guided tour of the Museum, and a film either on archeology in Egypt or Mesopotamia or Turkey or on general archeological principles. This past year twenty groups from Chicago and the suburban areas have participated in this program. Plans and schedules for these tours in the fall of 1967 and spring of 1968 are well under way.

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Mrs. Theodore Tieken unpacking the first shipment of reproductions for sale in the Suq.

THE SUQ (Museum Store)

The Suq opened on December 7, 1966, and has been a rewarding and successful part of the volunteer program. Mrs. Theodore Tieken, Mrs. Leonard Myer, Mrs. Robert Gray, and Mrs. Norman Cooperman have done an outstanding job in superintending the remodeling of the northeast part of the Museum foyer to make the store possible and then equipping and running it. Postcards, reproductions of ancient jewelry and statuary, note cards, prints, and books pertaining to the ancient Near East are on sale. In the fall, we hope to have more reproductions of our own Oriental Institute objects and jewelry, copies of the Gardiner-Davies prints of Egyptian tomb paintings, a selection of reproductions of Anatolian, Hittite, and Phrygian bronze vessels and vases from Turkey, Oriental Institute cards suitable for holiday greetings, and children's books on the art and archeology of the ancient Near East.

Volunteer sales personnel are Mrs. Norman Cooperman, Chicago; Mrs. Harry Kinzelberg, Highland Park; Mrs. Roy Poirot, Flossmoor; and Mrs. Bruce Nelson, Chicago.

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OTHER VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Mrs. Harry Kinzelberg and Mrs. Albert Haas have been making technical drawings of pots and other vessels for the forthcoming publication by Professors Pinhas Delougaz and Helene Kantor on their excavations at Chogha Mish, Iran. Mr. Edward Peterson is also assisting Professor Delougaz in photographing objects from excavations for publications.

Mrs. Irving Levin is assisting Dr. and Mrs. Braidwood in sorting archeological material from their prehistoric excavations in Turkey, Iran, and Iraq.

Under the direction of Mr. W. Press Hodgkins and after consultation with members of the Curriculum Department of the Board of Education of the Chicago Public Schools, an orientation program for the Chicago elementary school teachers has been arranged for this summer. At two week intervals, five groups of from 25 to 40 teachers will see an archeological film and be given a tour of the Museum. Both the film and the tour will stress the learning goals as listed in the 7th grade social studies curriculum outline.

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Restricted Purposes		$27,192.36
General		3,794.58
TOTAL		$30,986.94
Income July 1, 1966—June 30, 1967		
Members' Dues and Gifts		32,402.36
TOTAL		$63,389.30
EXPENDITURES, July 1, 1966—June 30, 1967		
Support of Oriental Institute Activities	$20,000.00	
Museum Development Program	16,433.87	
Prehistoric Project Expense	291.55	
Chicago House Book Purchases	373.57	
Egyptological Bibliography	100.00	
Turkish Trip Honoraria	1,000.00	
1965/66 Annual Report	1,662.44	
Lectures, Duplication & Entertainment	2,938.54	
TOTAL	$42,799.97	42,799.97
BALANCE, June 30, 1967		$20,589.33
Held for Restricted Purposes		16,822.53
Operating Balance, General Purposes		$ 3,766.80

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A laboratory class in Near Eastern archaeology taught by Professor Helene J. Kantor (left): selected potsherds, after geographical and chronological identification by the students, are arranged stratigraphically to demonstrate the development of ancient Near East cultures.



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Preparator Robert Hanson assisting Mrs. G. Corson Ellis in the reconstruction of a pot from its broken sherds.



Cover: Drs. Hans J. Nisson and Robert McC. Adams and Oriental Institue Jalbert Parafoil, through "fish eye" lens of aerial camera. *Photo courtesy Dr. George Gerster*