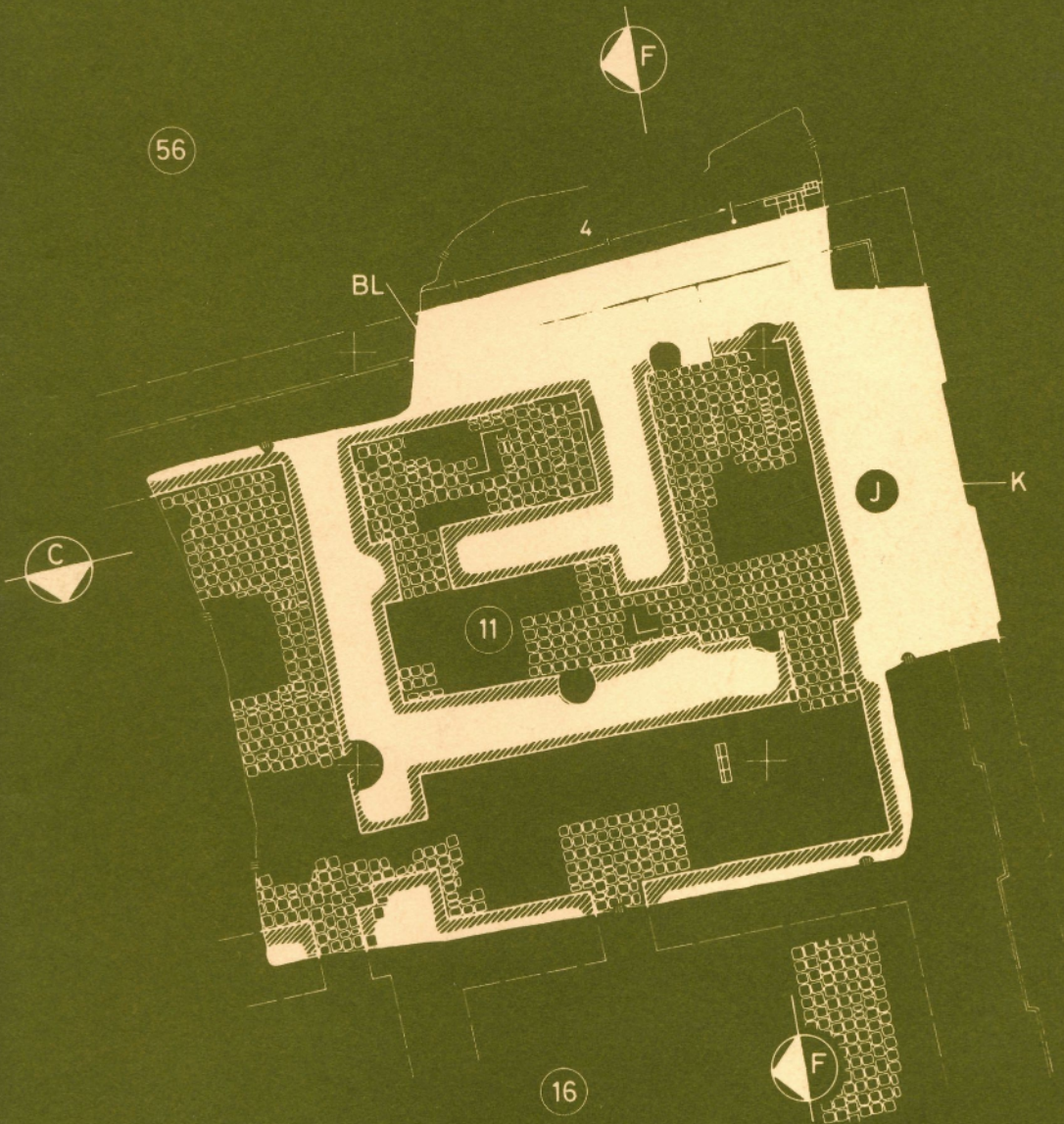


The Oriental Institute

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Report for 1974/75



We apologize for the following names of members being omitted from the listing of members at the back of this report.

SUSTAINING (\$50 to \$100)

Mrs. Morton D. Cahn, *Winnetka*
Mrs. Justin W. Dart, *Los Angeles, Calif.*
Mrs. Elliott Donnelley, *Lake Forest*
Mr. Dows Dunham, *Boston, Mass.*
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Elson, *Chicago*
Mrs. Mary Fahrenwald, *Chicago*
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Friedman, *Lakeside, Mich.*
Mr. & Mrs. Roy J. Friedman, *Chicago*
Mr. Paul W. Gaebelin, Jr., *Pacific Palisades, Calif.*
Mr. Donald Getz, *Lisle*
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Gidwitz, *Highland Park*
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel A. Glueck, *Chicago*
Ms. Jane Davis Haight, *Napa, Calif.*
Dr. & Mrs. John B. Hall, *Chicago*

ANNUAL (\$15 to \$50)

Mr & Mrs. Richard Jaffe, *Chicago*

To the Members and Friends of the Oriental Institute

In the following pages, you will read the chronicle of events that have marked the history of the Institute for the past year. In general, we have tried to avoid needless repetition so that subjects already treated at length in the monthly *News & Notes* are not necessarily touched on here.

The past year has seen the death of two of our emeritus faculty: A. Leo Oppenheim on July 21 and P. P. Delougaz on March 29. We have also lost one of our oldest and most generous benefactors, Chester D. Tripp (1882-1974), an appreciation of whom—written by one of his long-time friends—appears below.

We have welcomed as a new member of the faculty Harry A. Hoffner, Jr., formerly of Yale, who has come to teach Hittite and brought with him many years of preparation of a Hittite dictionary project. Kaspar K. Riemschneider of Munich was appointed our third James Henry Breasted Research Associate to work on the *Assyrian Dictionary*. Frank Yurco joined the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor as epigrapher.

June 30, 1975 marked the retirement of two well-known faculty members. George R. Hughes, Professor of Egyptology, began work for the Institute in 1934 and, besides his many years of teaching and research, capably and generously served the Institute in administrative capacities: as Director of the Epigraphic Survey in Egypt (1949-64) and as Director of the Institute (1968-72). Michael B. Rowton, Professor of Assyriology, since he first came to the Institute in 1952



Professor Robert J. Braidwood receiving an honorary doctorate from M. F. Luchaire, president of the Sorbonne, on March 7, 1975. Ernst Bloch is seated at the right.

had worked for many years on the Assyrian dictionary and taught and done research in Akkadian and in Mesopotamian history. We are happy to report that both Messrs. Hughes and Rowton plan to continue working on research projects in the Institute so that formal retirement will not mean a leave-taking from their colleagues and friends.

June 30, 1975 was also the final day in office of Klaus Baer, who has served so energetically as chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations over the past three years. To him we owe an immense debt of gratitude for the close cooperation between the Institute and the Department over this time. To his successor as chairman, Edward Wente, we wish every success in his new responsibilities.

Before closing these introductory remarks, I would like to express special thanks to Rebecca Hurwich, chairman of the Suq, and to her capable collaborator, Edna Manes, whose long and dedicated hours of labor have been the decisive factor in making this by far the most suc-

cessful year in the shop's history. I would also like to thank Jill Maher for her care and planning in managing the ever-expanding docent program. Likewise no report could be complete without a word of gratitude to Ethel Schenk, who left us in September after two periods of service in the administrative offices which amounted to more than thirty years. I am particularly grateful to Elena Druskis, Mary Ellen Cowan, and Bernard Lalor, who have kept the administrative and membership offices functioning so smoothly.

Finally, we thank you, members of the Institute, for your continued generous support. To your help and interest, we owe much that will be narrated in this report.

July 19, 1975

JOHN A. BRINKMAN
Director



Nabia Abbott

Photo by Jean Grant

Nabia Abbott, the first woman faculty member of the Oriental Institute, joined its staff in 1933 and became Professor Emeritus in 1963. When I visited her this past spring in her apartment on the Midway, I expected her to recall such aspects of her career as the discrimination that I knew she had faced as a professional woman in those pre-liberation days; her pioneering work on the position of women in the Islamic Middle East; her classic study of the rise of the North Arabic script; her massive, painstaking, and path-breaking investigations of Arabic literary papyri, which have already revolutionized the study of the culture of early Islam; or the many projects (including an extensive study of the introduction of the use of paper into the Middle East) which she was forced to abandon because of failing health. Instead, I found her hard at work on a major review of a recent book in German on an important Arabic historical papyrus document. "There are very few young scholars willing to undertake the hard labor involved in the study of Arabic papyri," she said, "and I want to write a critical review that will encourage this able young author to continue in this field and enhance it."

Nabia Abbott traveled far to reach the Oriental Institute. Born in Mardin (in southwest Turkey) on January 31, 1897, she, as yet a child, traveled with her family in a covered wagon with a caravan of nomad horsemen down to Mosul, sailed down the Tigris to Baghdad, and later through the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea to Bombay (1907). She went

to English schools; took and passed the Overseas Senior Matriculation Examination of the University of Cambridge (1915) but stayed in India during World War I; and traveled north to Lucknow's Isabella Thorbom College for Girls (an affiliate of the degree-granting University of Allahabad, whose largely British faculty set, administered, and graded the final examinations), which granted her an A.B. degree with honors (1919). Among her college colleagues were a number of India's future women leaders. Then she was called on to start a program of women's education in the nascent kingdom of Iraq, where she enjoyed the company and support of the famous Gertrude Bell. From there she followed her family to Boston. She obtained her A.M. at Boston University (1925). She then joined the faculty of Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky., taught first in the Department of Education and later became head of the Department of History (1925-33). When her family moved to Chicago, she was attracted by the courses offered by Martin Sprengling, then Professor of Arabic at the Oriental Institute.

In the period before World War II, the Oriental Institute's interest in Arabic and Islamic studies centered on the relation of these studies to the ancient Near East. The Institute housed precious early Islamic documents written on parchment, papyrus, and paper. Nabia Abbott prepared herself for working on these documents through the study of early Islamic history and philology with Martin Sprengling, and wrote a dissertation, "The *Qurrah* Papyri of the Oriental Institute" (1936). From 1933 on, the Oriental Institute was her home. She did not leave it except for one year, when she went to the Middle East on a sabbatical leave in 1946/47. She studied and published many of the Institute's early Islamic documents, helped it acquire others, expanded its library holdings in this area, and made full use of the opportunity it offered her to investigate and teach a subject which required utmost rigor and from which all but a handful of hardy scholars had shied away. I still recall a compatriot of mine, a graduate student of Arabic from Iraq, who thought he could read Arabic documents with ease. She placed before him one of the many glass-framed papyrus fragments she always had about in her study. When he could not make out a single word, let alone a line or a sentence, he sat speechless as she began to explain to him the type of detective work necessary for unravelling these puzzling marks—and this, of course, was just the beginning of the vast knowledge and expert handling required to throw light on such documents and make them, in turn, throw light on the broader questions of early Islamic history and culture.

Nabia Abbott is a scholar's scholar. She had the singleness of purpose and strength of character to resist the temptations that drove

many Arabists and Islamists to vulgarize their field at the expense of basic research. Today, as the chickens come back to roost and hundreds of badly trained graduates find there are no jobs to be had, it is good to remember that Nabia Abbott's breathtaking achievement was not the product of federal largess or expensive group projects, but was the result of the will and tenacity and plain hard work of an individual in an institution that set the highest standards for itself and cared for and protected its members as they went about their scholarly work. I shall never forget Robert McC. Adams, then Director of the Oriental Institute, standing at the door of Nabia Abbott's study on the eve of her retirement, the second volume of her *Studies in Arabic Literary Papyri* in his hand, saying to her: "This is the kind of work for which the Oriental Institute was founded and for which it exists. I want you to know that the Institute will continue to support you and be your home as long as you are able to continue your research."

MUHSIN MAHDI

Muhsin Mahdi was Professor of Arabic and chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. He is now Jewett Professor of Arabic at Harvard University.

Chester Dudley Tripp



Born July 25, 1882; died December 22, 1974

That Chester Tripp was born in Chicago and died in Chicago makes him a simon-pure Chicagoan. Counting his many years in Evanston, he lived out his long life here. As a matter of statistics, one can mention his graduating in 1903 from Yale's Sheffield Scientific School and his varied career as a mining and metallurgical engineer and as an industrial consultant. He had many business interests. His great success in these activities enabled him to follow his highly educated tastes and to use his technical skills in appraising, appreciating and acquiring the works of art which always surrounded him. He was literally a patron of the arts, active in the affairs of the Art Institute and, of course, of the Oriental Institute. He was a generous donor to many institutions. Up to his last years he gave to the Art Institute richly of Chinese and other Far Eastern ceramics. Among other donations he gave to the Oriental Institute the rich and significant collection of Hellenistic Roman gold jewelry, which has been on display since 1953.

But beyond this bare outline of his services and donations, which omits more than it lists, it is well to emphasize the characteristics of the mind and taste of the man himself. As a metallurgist, he knew metals; as a mining engineer he was wise in minerals. In collecting jades, bronzes, medieval enamels, and gems, he put these skills to singularly good use. Beyond that, he was truly a universal man, with a wide grasp of history and an intense interest in all phases of civilization. He was equally cognizant of the arts of the remote past, of the Middle and Far East, and of pre-Spanish America. He was a

connoisseur of painting, prints, and drawings. His range of interest was vast. You could see on a table in his library a Mycenaean gem seal, a bit of early Limoges enamel, and an ornament of Maya jade, each a prize of its class, and all harmonizing with their surroundings. On the walls of home and office hung paintings, such as a Titian portrait, and a rich display of prints and drawings. With his taste and knowledge, he acquired the best of each category.

With this background he was a vastly stimulating companion. To be with him in a great museum or amid the stock of an art dealer was to get an education in bronzes, sculpture, pottery, jades, or whatever else caught his interest. His mellow sense of humor never failed. His incisive comments and his vast historical and aesthetic background were a constant delight to his friends. His mind and memory were keen to the very end. He traveled constantly and widely. His death prevented a cruise he was about to take. He got more from life than is given to most. He will be sadly missed.

NORMAN S. PARKER

Norman S. Parker, member of the Oriental Institute and a former member of the Visiting Committee, was a long-time friend of Mr. Tripp's.

The Epigraphic and Architectural Survey

Kent R. Weeks

The 1974/75 season of the Epigraphic and Architectural Survey in Luxor, our fifty-first, was a productive and interesting one in which both artists and epigraphers devoted the bulk of their time to the complex problems posed by the important historical scenes of King Seti I at Karnak. Carved on the outer face of the north wall of the Hypostyle Hall, these reliefs record the numerous, and apparently successful, campaigns this Nineteenth Dynasty ruler waged against Egypt's enemies in Lebanon, Syria, Libya, and lands to the south. Artistically, the reliefs are among the finest the New Kingdom has to

offer: well-proportioned, carefully modelled, dealing in complex yet successful ways with problems of composition and story. Remarkable care was taken by the artisans to show the costumes of Egypt's enemies, the subtle details of facial expression on the fallen captives, and even the arrangement of harnesses on the war chariots. Were it only because of their surprising quality, these reliefs would have posed a challenge to the epigraphic and artistic staff. But for a number of reasons that remain unclear, much of this wall, both its texts and figures, underwent substantial recutting, as artisans sought to alter the outlines of a figure's profile or change the content of a historical text. Particular problems were created by the heavy alterations undergone by the name rings, lists of the African and Asiatic places the King conquered on his marches east and south. Here, it often took many days' patient study by artist and epigrapher to sort out the signs that were carved and the order in which they were placed on the wall.

Studies of the upper register of this wall, which was destroyed centuries ago, in an attempt to locate loose blocks and reconstruct the wall's original height revealed the exciting fact that these reliefs continued around the northwest corner, onto a wall that abuts the Second Pylon. Hidden by a later addition built by Shoshenk I, this section of wall had gone unnoticed by all earlier explorers. What we so far have been able to see of the wall—and until next season, when we hope to remove several loose stones, that is not very much—is a figure of King Seti, perhaps drawing his bow, and in front of him traces of a lengthy historical text that may relate to the nearby scene of the battle of Kadesh.

As our epigraphers, William J. Murnane, James Allen, and Frank Yurco, continued their study of the complex problems posed by the Seti wall, our staff of artists turned their attention to the Survey's newest project, the recording of the scenes of the Feast of Opet in the Processional Colonnade of the Temple of Luxor. The pencilling of photographs done there during the last two months of the season provided more than twenty drawings for the artists' summer work, and those will be ready for collation when we return to Luxor in October. These scenes of the Opet Feast, very well carved although in an unfortunate state of preservation, will provide useful companions to other Opet scenes recorded by the Survey in past years and will help insure the continued existence, at least in published form, of a still slowly eroding monument. Recording for just such a purpose—to insure the survival of the data upon which our knowledge of ancient Egypt is based—was, after all, the prime objective set for the Survey when it was founded by James Henry Breasted in 1924. The Opet

scenes are substantial ones, and we estimate that our artists, Reginald Coleman, H. Martyn Lack, and John Romer, will be kept busy there for several more seasons.

Our fourth artist, Mrs. Clare Sampson Semple, has left the Survey to join her husband in Lebanon and the Sudan, and she will be replaced next season by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Howard.

Our photographer, John Ross, will continue the arduous task of photographing the Opet scenes and will be well occupied this coming season with photographs for future projects, including a tomb on the West Bank, our cartographic survey, and further work in Karnak.

At home, the library continues to grow under the supervision of Ms. Andrée Bichara, our librarian, while Hagg Ibrahim and our new engineer continue to keep the equipment of Chicago House running smoothly and efficiently. We are in the process of undertaking a number of both major and minor repairs to insure the continued good health of Chicago House; all our staff has suffered through a year of painting, hammering, plowing and other activities.

As in past seasons, a substantial portion of the expenses of the Survey were borne by funds provided by the Smithsonian Institution through the American Research Center in Egypt.

The Joint Istanbul-Chicago Prehistoric Project

Robert J. Braidwood

Several things happened during the 1974/75 academic year—the Institute's Rockefeller Centenary celebration, our meetings with old field companions the Haineses and the Lloyds—to make us reflect on how different archeology was in the early 1930's. Those were years when the Near East was essentially a tranquil region. Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria were mandated territories of Britain and France, and as such those were really the last days of nineteenth-century colonialism. For us foreign archeologists, there were archeologically well-educated British and French officials to deal with, al-

though I must say that our “divisions” of finds always seemed to be as fair to the local museums as to the foreign excavators. Further, those of us on the various Oriental Institute expeditions had no worries, either financial or operational (for all that it was the time of the Great Depression, come to think of it). The Institute’s founder and director, James Henry Breasted, had a genius for providing us with both adequate field budgets and comfortable living and working quarters. In retrospect, what we thought we were doing and how we did it may now seem naive, although I still think that if Breasted’s ideas (as he set them forth in the handbook called *The Oriental Institute*) were translated into the contemporary jargon of the so-called “new archeology,” he himself would seem surprisingly modern.

It is quite clear in that book, for example, that Breasted was already seeing the “problem focus” under which the Prehistoric Project first began to operate; but in fact we did not begin until well after Breasted’s death, we were not conscious of having been stimulated by him, and we were in a quite different financial, operational, and political milieu. The prehistorian’s link with anthropology and the reasons for his concern with paleoenvironments, which necessitates aid from a variety of natural scientist colleagues, were all in Breasted’s mind. It even seems very probable, given his concern for making the Oriental Institute field-effective as soon as possible in the earliest 1930’s, that Breasted sensed (well before his death) that the prevailing political milieu, which favored an older-fashioned type of archeology with a division of the yield, would soon end, as indeed it did.

Since its start in the northeastern hill country of Iraq in 1947, our Prehistoric Project has had eight field seasons. We were forced to move from Iraq because of the political sensitivity of our region after three seasons there. We anticipated moving next to southeastern Turkey but had one field session in Iran before arrangements for our joint effort with Prof. Dr. Halet Çambel’s Prehistory Department in Istanbul University were completed. There have now been four field seasons in Turkey, at the site of Çayönü near Diyarbakir, in what is actually uppermost Mesopotamia. From the beginning what we have been investigating are the conditions that prepare the way for effective food production, and the achievement and consequences of it. The archeological sites we have sought and excavated, we hope, contribute to an understanding of how, with the effective domestication of plants and animals, a new way of life became possible some time around ten thousand years ago.

There was no digging this last year. We are, in effect, victims of our own success. In those eight field campaigns, we have accumulated a very substantial amount of raw evidence. This poses the strong moral responsibility, which any archeologist must face, of seeing to the adequate publication of the results of his field work. Naturally, the greater the bulk and variety of evidence, the more difficult it becomes to get it down clearly and adequately on paper. So our efforts went toward completion of the editing of the variety of final manuscripts on the materials recovered in our earlier field seasons' work on sites in Iraqi Kurdistan. It is clear that we were too generous in allowing Ph.D. candidates to work up different categories of materials as a basis for dissertations—many hours have been committed to the almost total rewriting and reanalysis of studies of this sort, which studies turned out to be far less complete than anticipated.

Both Bruce Howe and Patty Jo Watson have been able to spend two short periods in the Project's laboratory, checking manuscripts against the objects in the Chicago collections. Linda and I have spent a major portion of our time in checking and coordinating manuscripts, tables, drawings, and photos. Mrs. Blair has completed most of Howe's flint drawings and they are of very high quality. There is beginning to be light at the end of the tunnel!

There is a further dimension to the tardy publication problem. Today's milieu of archeological financing is quite different from those great days when Breasted provided all by simply firing the imagination of another millionaire or two. Now, over and above our basic expectations from the Oriental Institute's budget and friends, we must seek funds which will provide us with such expenses as the leave-of-absence salaries of three or four senior colleagues in the natural sciences as well as in archeology (all from other universities), and also funds to maintain our role in training promising graduate students and to cover the ever-inflating costs of operations and travel. We have, with some success, turned to the National Science Foundation. At the same time, however, the Foundation now begins to wonder, not at all unreasonably, where the final reports are on those earlier field seasons for which it provided grants-in-aid.

All is not completely bleak, though. We did recently receive a modest NSF grant for the further support of the processing for publication of the excavated materials in the Istanbul University's laboratory. (Contrast this, incidentally, with the 1930's, when under the system of divisions much processing for publication could go on back home in Chicago!) At least I am somewhat heartened to know that I

am not completely on the Foundation's blacklist. The masses of editorial markings, blue and red pencilings, and retypings of old manuscripts and drawings is at last beginning to make coherent sense. With luck, I anticipate that we can soon, in good faith, make a new proposal for a grant which will give us a long wind-up field season at Çayönü.

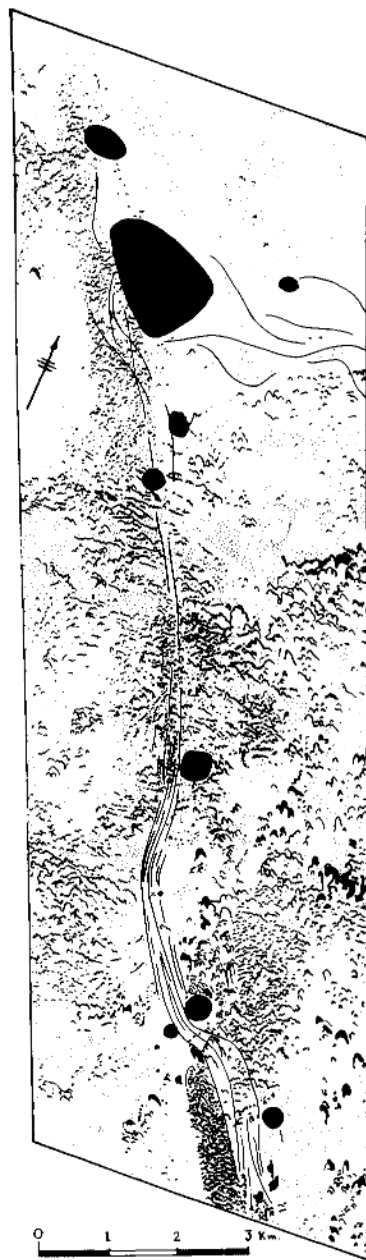
There have been times, though, when I've had the feeling that it would have been much simpler to leave all those sites undug in the first place: I've always hated editing. But had there been no digging, Linda and I would have found life very dull indeed.

Reconnaissance of Ancient Mesopotamian Settlement Patterns

Robert McC. Adams

The ancient towns and cities of southern Iraq were a shifting, sensitive point of convergence of many historical and natural forces. They increased in number and size under favorable, politically stable conditions, the balance of control tilting against the semi-sedentary or nomadic forces of the countryside. At such times a well-developed urban hierarchy appeared, with towns nested in clusters of surrounding villages and with successively larger cities in turn nested in clusters of villages and towns. At other times the urban population declined precipitately, dispersing into the countryside when silted canals, shifting river courses, or various forms of political and economic breakdown interrupted the food supply. Moreover, the initial growth of Sumerian urban civilization in the fourth millennium B.C. seems to have been accompanied by a rapid, perhaps compulsive drawing in of previously dispersed rural population groups. Thus, the study of ancient settlement patterns has proved a suggestive line of approach to some of the broader patterns of change and continuity in Mesopotamian civilization as a whole.

The Oriental Institute has been engaged in tracing these settlement patterns throughout southern Mesopotamia for more than two dec-



*The third millennium Euphrates
at Adab and modern (about 1962)
dune formations. Drawn by R.
McC. Adams.*

ades, my own primary involvement in this project having begun in 1956. Work began in the northern part of the alluvial plain, the ancient region of Akkad, and then shifted eastward into the lower Diyala region. Subsequently attention was focussed on the extreme south, in the vicinity of the great ruined cities of Uruk and Ur. The current phase, now nearing completion, connects these separate undertakings and thus permits a first glimpse of the shifting settlements of southern Iraq as a whole, including the irrigation system which sustained them.

Aerial photographs are the indispensable tool of these studies, not only because much of the region is barren desert that remains unmapped but because there are immense resources of data in the photographs whose significance would never be apparent to an observer on the ground. Yet the photographs themselves, without the control of accompanying ground observation, provide only a confused tracery of criss-crossing canal and river patterns, interrupted by other discolorations that may be either anomalies of surface drainage or the remains of ancient settlements. The tasks of reconnaissance consist, then, of systematically covering and mapping a region from the aerial photographs, as reinterpreted from the study of the actual surface remains. Innumerable sherds of broken pottery constitute the primary tool of this part of the study, for they permit us to date not only the ancient settlements on which they occur but also the accompanying canal and river patterns.

One such pattern is illustrated in the accompanying tracing from several adjoining aerial photographs. It shows a major course of the ancient Euphrates running through country now heavily blanketed with dunes, together with settlements along its banks that were all flourishing at about 2000 B.C. The largest of these is ancient Adab, briefly excavated by a University of Chicago expedition at the beginning of this century. All the others, lost in the dunes, escaped notice until our reconnaissance this past winter and spring.

Desert regions, beyond the limits of modern cultivation, have proved the most rewarding for study. In the first place, they offer relatively unimpeded (which is not to say easy) access. Second, many ancient settlements are very low, virtually at plain level, and these are frequently very difficult to detect once they have been plowed over. Third, cultivation brings regular flooding with irrigation water, and the silt in the water rapidly elevates the land surface and actually buries many sites. And finally, desert regions are the locus of active wind erosion, as the dunes suggest. This has the opposite effect to alluvial

build-up, actively carving away the alluvial cover laid down through centuries of ancient agriculture and exposing still more ancient land surface for detailed study.

One important discovery of the past season of field work is a direct outcome of this erosive process. It has been possible to trace a meandering river course across the desert northeast of Nippur for about 35 miles, mapping the settlements that adjoined it and following its changes through time as the meanders cut away adjacent bank material and moved up- or downstream. Probably it was the major bed of the Euphrates prior to its abandonment in the middle of the fourth millennium B.C., providing us with an unparalleled glimpse of a segment of the Sumerian landscape at the time of the first creative impulses toward urbanism.

Another finding concerns the basic continuity of the canal pattern serving southern Mesopotamia. Four close-spaced, parallel channels have been traced passing through the Nippur region from the northwest, their banks closely lined with hundreds of sites dating from the fourth millennium and continuing, with many reconstructions and interruptions, well into the Islamic period. Yet adjoining regions, along the right bank of the Tigris and to the south of Nippur, seem to have been very lightly occupied except during portions of the last 2500 years or so. Some of these relatively empty areas seem to have served as gigantic drains, used for little more than uncontrolled flood runoff during the spring, and at other times as lands given over to grazing. In other words, the whole of the region between the Tigris and Euphrates was almost never continuously settled. Marked differences in the density of settlement, from region to region as well as from period to period, provide a new basis for scrutinizing both the continuity and the character of the ancient civilization.

Added to relatively brief earlier phases of field work in 1968 and 1973, about 1150 sites have been mapped and dated from their surface remains. All but about 50 of them were not known previously. Many are of very modest size and interest, of course, except for the settlement and irrigation patterns that they display in aggregate. But also included are a number of large and fairly important towns that have not been noted earlier. Unfortunately, no inscriptional material was found to permit any of them to be directly identified by its ancient name. Nevertheless, the very number of new settlements, and the precision with which they can now be located along particular water-courses, may in the end facilitate the identification of some of them.

Field work on this project has been supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation. Quarters and logistical support were

generously made available by Jürgen Schmidt and Nicholas Postgate, respectively the heads of the German and British archeological expeditions to Iraq. The cooperation in every way of Dr. Isa Salman, Iraq's Director General of Antiquities, and members of his staff also is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are due in particular to Sayyid Abdul Qader al-Shaykhli, who accompanied me as a representative of the Inspectorate of Surveys during most of the occasionally arduous survey of a once fertile and prosperous but now harsh and desolate landscape.

Excavations at Chogha Mish

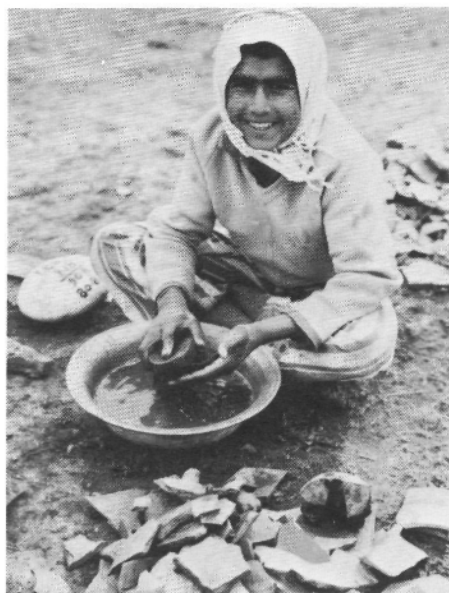
Helene J. Kantor

This season's work of the Joint Iranian Expedition of the Oriental Institute and the University of California at Los Angeles at Chogha Mish is overshadowed by the death of P. P. Delougaz about a week and a half before we had expected to close camp. In the words of one of our Persian friends "He died like a general on the battlefield." All morning on March 29 he had been surveying the architectural structures discovered on the "high mound." When about to resume work after the luncheon break, he was suddenly struck down by a heart attack. The outpouring of grief and concern from our workmen and many friends in Iran was moving testimony to the deep regard in which he is held.

The season of 1974/75 lasted from our arrival in Tehran on December 20, 1974, until our departure on April 7, 1975. Excavations continued from January 1 to March 29, interrupted a number of times by rain. Aside from Professor Delougaz, H. J. Kantor, and Miss Johanne Vindenas, the registrar, all the members of the staff this year were newcomers: Mrs. Karen Briggs, Miss Valerie Fargo, Mr. Glenn Schwartz (students at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, at the University of Chicago, and at Yale University, respectively), and Mr. St. John Smith (an architect from Boston, who came as a volunteer member). In addition, two English women presently living in Iran joined us as volunteers: Miss Jane Cowgill and Mrs. Elisabeth Richmond. The archeologist sent to work with us by the Iranian

Centre for Archaeological Research was Mr. Aghil Abedi, whom we already knew from three years ago when he was one of three University of Tehran students brought by their teacher, Mr. Y. Majidzadeh, to work with the Expedition for several weeks. We owe Dr. Firouz Bagherzadeh, director of the Iranian Centre for Archaeological Research, and members of his staff our warm thanks for their continued interest in our work and for their efficiency in having the renewal of our excavation permit ready so that we could begin excavations without delay on our arrival. We were glad that this season Dr. Bagherzadeh was able to visit us at the excavations for the first time.

Our aims this season were multiple. They included, on the tepe, the continuation of work in important areas of the eighth season as well as the reopening of excavation in the "high mound" and, in the expedition house, the recording of pottery from the eighth season not yet finished as well, of course, as the recording of current finds. Many of the staff worked at times on the backlog, the efforts of the volunteer members being particularly marked. Mr. Smith with indefatigable energy and devotion drew a great number of pottery vessels. Mrs. Richmond and Miss Cowgill worked faithfully on the detailed sorting and recording of the extremely important Early Susiana pottery groups discovered in the Gully Cut in the eighth season. On the mound we worked in three main areas, and archeologically the ex-



Sherd boy washing pottery from the Middle Susiana 3 complex in one of the sherd yards. Photo by H. J. Kantor.

cavations were as successful as we had hoped at the outset, although sometimes in a very unexpected way.

The Gully Cut: Archaic and Early Susiana Periods (Sixth Millennium B.C.).—In the low-lying Gully Cut, on the east side of the terrace, we continued with the excavation of the Early Susiana buttressed wall discovered in the eighth season. At both sides it had run into the undug sides of the dig so that this year an overburden of Protoliterate and Middle Susiana remains was removed in order to reach the Early Susiana level at those points. We found that the buttressed wall turns so as to form at its southern end a small rectangular room, which appears to be the center of the complex. The resulting plan, rather different from what we had expected, is of special interest. Below the Early Susiana level a relatively large expanse of occupation dating to the Archaic Susiana 3 Period, that is, to about the beginning of the sixth millennium B.C., was dug. It is characterized by unevenly sloping masses of river pebbles, "stone carpets" as our workmen called them. Such extensive stone-covered areas are a new feature that did not exist in the sectors where substantial brick walls of the same period had been found in the previous seasons. We begin now to obtain an idea of the configuration of the Archaic 3 settlement with houses flanked on the sloping edge of the community by "paved" areas, where many everyday activities were carried on. We are reminded of the courtyard of our own expedition house to which year by year we add pebbles to keep down the mud and dust and to make possible its use as a working space.

Lying among the stones and the irregular earth layers between groups of stones were numerous sherds as well as other small finds. The very demanding and lengthy task of sorting seemingly innumerable sherds and chips of Archaic unpainted straw-tempered pottery, though not yet completed, has already led to the reconstruction of a large vessel, the only example yet known of its kind, and of portions of others. The contemporary painted sherds are enlarging our understanding of the different cultural components present in Khuzestan during the final phase of the Archaic Susiana Period and providing additional evidence for cultural continuity with the following Early Susiana Period. In addition to the numerous pottery finds, fragments of female figurines were frequent; they demonstrate the variety of renderings of the human form in the early periods at Chogha Mish. Surprisingly enough, though the bodies are frequently extremely simplified, incision is used to indicate such details as patterned skirts. The Gully Cut also provided fragments or chips from stone vessels.



*Elamite cup with wild goat
handle dating to the
early second millennium B.C.
Photo by H. J. Kantor.*

Though in themselves not very impressive, they are of substantial importance as indications of the widespread production of stone vessels in the early periods of the Susiana sequence.

The High Mound: Elamite and Protoliterate Periods (Early Second and Late Fourth Millennia B.C.).—One of the major goals this season was to return to the high area forming the northern part of Chogha Mish to make an extensive test of the deposits underlying the massive walls of the Elamite fort cleared and planned in the third season. It seemed particularly fitting to return to this area since in Chicago last summer Professor Delougaz had reviewed the evidence for the Elamite fort previously excavated and had worked out a probable reconstruction of it.

In 1965/66 it was proved that on the west slope of the high mound the remains of the Elamite fort directly overlie earlier Protoliterate brickwork, also of massive size. The two brick masses were practically fused together and only by articulating single bricks were we able to establish the demarcation line between Elamite and Protoliterate in the single sloping surface to which the storms of centuries had eroded the remains of the two periods. This season we probed along this demarcation line to find whether there is any feature leading toward substantial architectural features of the Protoliterate Period underlying the Elamite brickwork. Any such features would have had to survive exposure to the elements between the abandonment of the site sometime before 3200 B.C. and the erection of the Elamite fort, probably over a thousand years later. In the work this season the first indications were a few baked bricks of Protoliterate type among the masses of unbaked ones. The overlying Elamite brickwork already recorded in the third season was removed in order to follow the Protoliterate remains. At first they seemed to consist of a floor made up for the most part of broken baked bricks, but we soon came upon an imposing drain construction slanting upward and built of well-preserved complete bricks. The drain has now been extended for more than 10 meters and leads to an apparent catch basin on which secondary drains converge from all four directions. While the drain may not lead us to any still remaining monumental building, its size and construction undoubtedly testify to the existence of some such structure at this point on the mound. How much of this structure still exists is uncertain, and it may even have been completely destroyed, since, as the drain slopes upward, it is approaching the modern surface. At this stage the excavation on the high mound ended this season. Clearly there is still much to be done, and Professor Delougaz was hoping that the mound here would still provide some important surprises. It did in fact on that last morning of his work on the site give up, from a spot very close to the great drain, one of the finest objects to have been discovered by us there—a cylindrical, bituminous stone Elamite cup with a handle formed by the figure of a rampant wild goat, carved in the round.

The East Area: Achaemenid, Protoliterate and Middle Susiana 3 (Middle of First, Late Fourth, and Late Fifth Millennia B.C.).—The third main sector this season was in that part of the northeastern terrace which we are accustomed to call the east area of Protoliterate houses. Although these do constitute the bulk of the structures so far excavated here, the complicated stratigraphy of the area is now becoming clearer. This season we excavated two additional strips

along the area's northwestern and eastern edges from the surface down. In the uppermost level of the northern area immediately below the surface, as nearby in previous season, traces of Achaemenid Persian occupation occurred. In addition a pit containing Achaemenid pottery was found. Our knowledge of the wares and pottery shapes in use in the Achaemenid settlement at Chogha Mish is increasing rapidly. Although apparently only a village, its inhabitants still shared in a modest way in the art that made Persepolis and Susa such impressive cities. This is demonstrated by a small terra-cotta lion's head, covered with a bright red wash, that probably originally projected from some such object as a cylindrical cosmetic container. Despite its tiny size, the head is represented with the same details found on large-scale Achaemenid sculpture in stone: a threatening open mouth, fangs, wrinkled nose, and ruff. The features in relief are supplemented by refined incised details that show the great care with which the head was made.

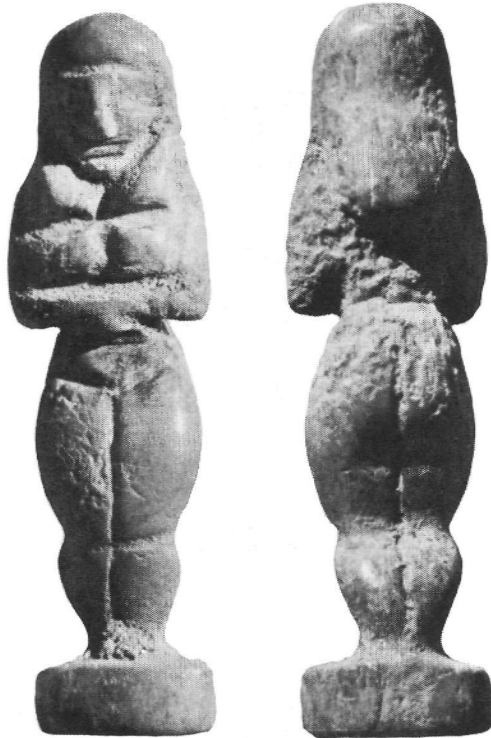
In the north strip, Protoliterate rooms and installations, together with a number of pits containing rich deposits of pottery, constitute the bulk of the finds. Close to the bottom of one of these pits were five tablets of a type new to Chogha Mish. They are small, without seal impressions, and bear only numerals: small or large circles, long strokes, and a large oval, apparently a new sign. These signs were used in varying arrangements on the tablets to record different total sums. The new Chogha Mish tablets find parallels among the tablets belong-



*Protoliterate tablet
with numerals from Pit P17:902.
Photo by P. P. Delougaz.*

ing to a somewhat later stage of the Protoliterate Period discovered by Professor Delougaz years ago at Khafaje in the Diyala region of Iraq.

A noteworthy small find was made in the course of removing the stump of a Protoliterate wall. In its brickwork was a small bone figure of a nude woman standing with crossed arms. Her face is indicated by



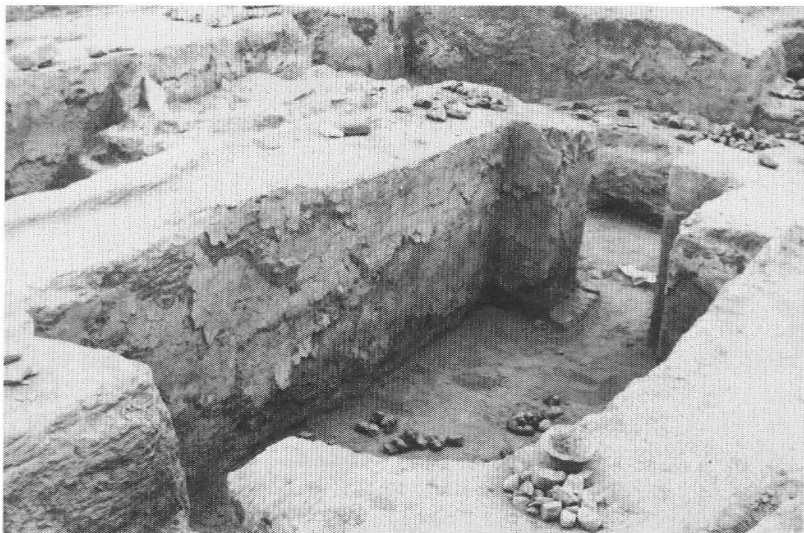
*Miniature bone figurine of the Protoliterate period
(height 3.55 cm.). Photos by P. P. Delougaz.*

relatively crude gouges but otherwise her body and heavy mass of hair are very well modeled. In style, despite the miniature size, the figure resembles larger Protoliterate figures of women, carved in stone, found at Warka and at Khafaje. The latter, furthermore, stands on a round base which provides an excellent parallel for that of the little Chogha Mish lady.

At the end of January, when rain soaked the excavations along the northwestern edge of the Protoliterate house area, we opened a new strip along its eastern edge at the point where the terrace begins to slope down toward the fields surrounding the mound. Here we ex-



General view of the Middle Susiana 3 burnt building seen from the north and looking toward the two doorways in the front. Photo by H. J. Kantor.



Detail of the interior of one of the rooms of the burnt building, showing well-preserved plaster. The door on the left leads into the room shown in the next photo. Photo by P. P. Delougaz.

pected to find the continuation of the Protoliterate houses, and in fact walls did appear immediately below the modern surface. In a matter of hours there emerged the upper parts of burned walls, to which fire reddened plaster still adhered. In a few days we had dug several rooms with some walls standing almost to a man's height and with well-preserved doorways. The conflagration that destroyed the building had hardened the mud plaster around the beams and reeds of the ceiling, thus preserving their imprints, which provide excellent evidence for the structure of the roof. Even some charred fragments of wood were preserved, as well as quantities of charcoal. The outstanding preservation, the massiveness of the walls, the sophistication of the doorway revetments, and the absence of Protoliterate pottery at first suggested that the burnt building might be a relatively late structure built into the slope of the terrace. We soon found, however, that on the west its walls were well underneath the Protoliterate houses and had elsewhere been cut into by Protoliterate pits. This stratigraphic evidence was corroborated by that of the pottery. The sherds in the debris of the building belong to the final stage of the Middle Susiana Period. As we approached the floor level, the ceramic finds became extensive. Charred and flattened vessels lay near the walls inside the main rooms. One of two small back rooms was still stacked full of ovoid jars with painted decoration on their shoulders. About eighteen complete unpainted bowls were clustered at the base of the structure's western wall, on the exterior side. The burnt edifice has thus turned out to be a sensational discovery providing us with extensive finds *in situ* in a building of the Middle Susiana 3 Period (late fifth millennium B.C.). Up until this season we had not found sherds of this period in architectural contexts and had feared that the Middle Susiana 3 buildings suffered great erosion while the city on the terrace was abandoned by the contracted population of the Late Susiana Period and that any remaining building traces had been destroyed by the extensive activities of the new Protoliterate settlers.

On the floors of the burnt building were found numerous flint nodules, the raw material for the manufacture of flint tools. A number of completed long blades were also present. When Professor Delougaz had the earth sifted in a very small-meshed sieve, miniscule chips of flint were recovered. Clearly flints were being manufactured on a scale far larger than would have been needed by an individual family. We may have here the earliest known Iranian industrial center for flint-making. The building's significance, however, may be even greater. Its monumentality goes beyond that which seems necessary for a workshop or an ordinary private dwelling. On the east it was flanked



Jars stacked on the east side of one of the store rooms of the burnt building. At the time of the photograph the west end of the room was still covered by Protoliterate remains. Photo by P. P. Delougaz.

by solidly-laid brickwork extending for more than 7 meters and of a shallowness which precludes the possibility of this brickwork being part of a platform. More likely it formed the lower part of a fortification wall adjacent to which the burnt building was located. Already this season we have speculated whether the rooms so far found may have belonged to an administrative building or even a temple, functions which would not necessarily preclude their utilization also for an industrial center.

At the end of the season we were in the process of tracing the walls of additional Middle Susiana 3 rooms to the west. Professor Delougaz and I were looking forward to our next season, when the removal of Protoliterate walls and drains would enable us to reveal more of the Middle Susiana structures below. Such evidence would be invaluable for further reconstruction of the character of the great Middle Susiana city at Chogha Mish and for dealing with the major historical problem of why it was abandoned by its inhabitants, whose Late Susiana survivors occupied only the northern part of the site—creating by their accumulated debris the high mound. Although Professor Delougaz is no longer here to carry on with the work, the initiation of which goes back to a project which he envisioned in the 1940's, the excavations at Chogha Mish, "this marvelously rich site" as he termed it in our first newsletter this season, must go on.

The Nippur Expedition

McGuire Gibson

In the autumn of 1974, the Oriental Institute Expedition to Nippur, Iraq, was scheduled for its thirteenth season. By early September most of the staff members were already in the Near East prepared to meet in Baghdad. The season, however, did not take place because of internal Iraqi problems, and the staff was called home. The work will resume in the autumn of 1975.

Although we did not excavate during the last year, we did much work on the analysis and publication of the eleventh and twelfth seasons (1972-73). The preliminary report on the eleventh season, to appear in a few months as "Oriental Institute Communications," No. 22, is in galley proofs. The manuscript for the twelfth season, co-authored by Judith Franke and me, is finished and went to the editor in June. This report will be published as "Oriental Institute Communications," No. 24. Short summary articles on the twelfth season have appeared during the last year in the journals *Expedition*, *Iraq*, and *Sumer*.

Analyses of the animal bones from former seasons have been done by Prof. J. Boessneck of Munich. His work indicates that in Old Babylonian Nippur (ca. 1800 B.C.) people ate sheep, goats, cows, pigs, and fish as well as gazelle, birds, and turtles. Seeds found in similar historical levels are still being identified. The results will fill in our picture of ancient diet, complementing what is known from cuneiform documents.

Dr. Peter Mehringer of Washington State University has almost completed his work on the pollen samples from the last two seasons and has indications of a cycle of cultivation, marsh, and desert that may have been operative throughout Mesopotamian history.

Dr. Michael Bates of the American Numismatic Society has studied a hoard of 76 Islamic coins found on the top of the mound and has concluded that, in addition to coins from the expected mints in Iraq and Iran, there is also a group from North Africa.

The pottery from Nippur is being analyzed in different ways by Judith Franke, Paul Zimansky, and William Dodge. Part of their findings will appear in *OIC* 24, and further work will be incorporated in future reports.

In the autumn of 1975, we expect to continue exposing the temples in our Area WA and expand the location we call Area WB, where we have found large private houses owned by bakers. On the lower slopes of the mound, near the expedition house, we will open a new area to search for part of the city wall and houses of the second millennium B.C. We will also have with us a geomorphologist, who will sink pits in places where we think the ancient Euphrates used to run. He will also carry out other research to test for the cycle of cultivation, marsh, and desert indicated in the Mehringer pollen profiles.

For our long-term planning, the most important event of the last year may well have been the founding of Friends of Nippur. This group of about 120 individuals supports our research through memberships and by working for various events. In the past nine months we have published a handsome brochure on Nippur and held several social events, a very successful auction of Near Eastern craft items, and a set of lectures on Mesopotamian civilization.

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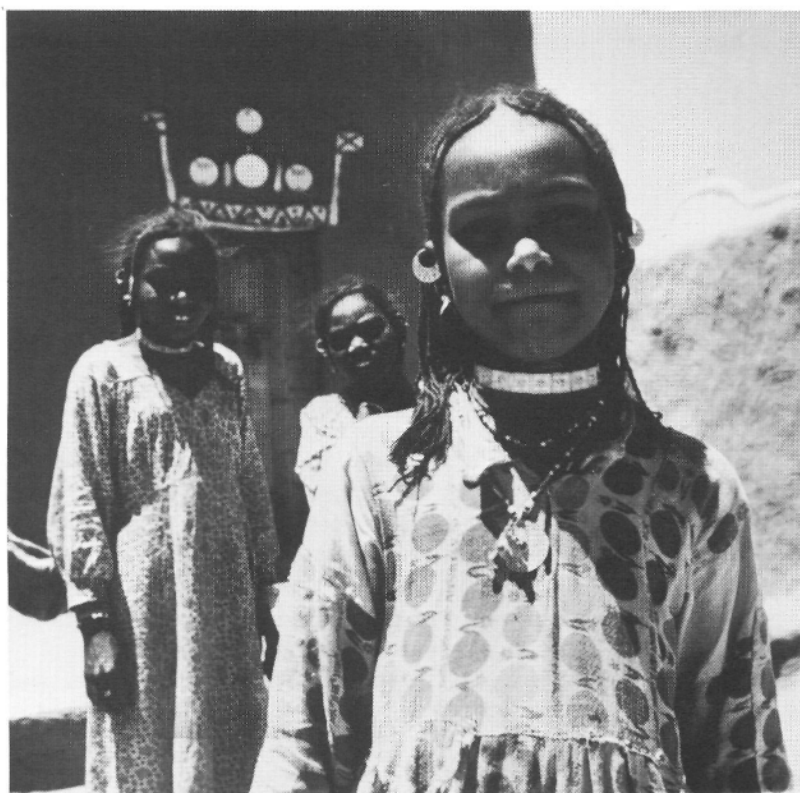
The Semna South Project

Louis V. Žabkar

As our previous reports indicated, the work on the Semna South Project has been developing in a number of areas of research: drawing of the seal impressions found in the quarry-dump near the Twelfth Dynasty fortress, analysis of the textiles being done at the laboratories of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the Harvard Peabody Museum, study of the architecture of the fortress, drawing of the beads and pottery sherds, study of the human remains, and the like.

The preparation of the manuscript, describing the structures and the finds of the Meroitic and X-Group cemetery at Semna South, has also occupied our attention this year, and a great deal of time has been devoted to this task. But we think that readers, while waiting for

the publication that will give a general description of all the material pertaining to the excavation, would appreciate it if in this report, as in the previous one, we discuss briefly some particular feature of our work.





An interesting observation made while excavating the Meroitic and X-Group graves at Semna South was that the burials of infants and children were often made with great care, and fortunately most of them were found intact, spared by the ubiquitous grave-robber.

It will be recalled that even in Athens of the classical period, the father of a family had the right to decide whether to keep a new-born child or to expose it and let it perish. In Sparta, even harsher practices prevailed, since it was a group of citizens who, without asking the father's advice, would decide whether the infant seemed fit enough to be allowed to grow up or whether it should be exposed.

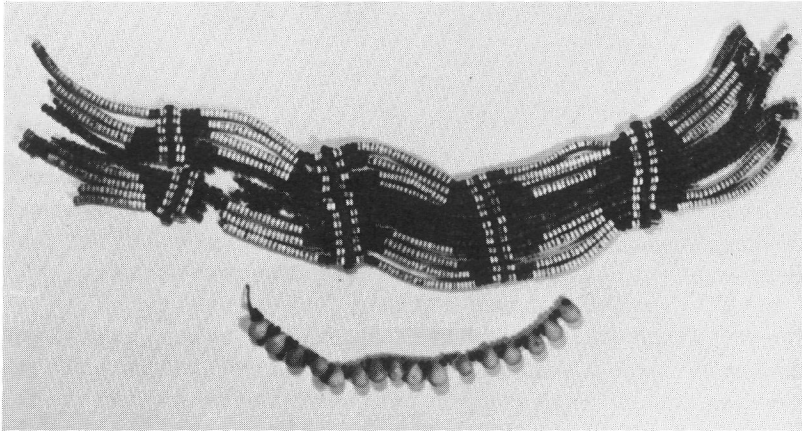
By contrast, the situation in Egypt, and at least in the northern Meroitic communities, was quite different. No practice of abandonment of infants is attested. On the contrary, the excavations of the Meroitic and X-Group cemeteries revealed the great care with which infants and children were buried, regardless of their physical condition. We found, for example, the intact body of a young girl about six or seven years old. Her earrings, a somewhat simplified form of the golden earrings worn by the Meroitic queens, were still clinging to the well-preserved lobes of the ears, and around her neck was a necklace composed of many strings of multicolored beads. A Nubian girl of about the same age (or somewhat older) from the now submerged village of Qustul, in the company of two other girls, all of them adorned with jewelry, indicates that, now as then, love of jewelry develops early in the life of a Nubian girl.

Four small cups, so-called feeding cups, of varying quality and manufacture were also found. Such cups were frequently placed in the graves of the infants, sometimes near their mouths, as if to be immediately accessible to them in the afterlife.

Some strands of complex multicolored beadwork of a remarkable craftsmanship covered almost the entire body of an infant before it

was wrapped in a shroud; a small double string of beads was also attached to the hair of the infant, and another was placed around his neck.

Beads, necklaces, bracelets, earrings, cups, and other funerary gifts were found even in modest and poor burials, and in some other graves a profusion of such objects. All this reveals not only the care, but even



the devotion with which these infants and children were treated, the respect for their humanity even in death.

Perhaps some day it will be possible to explain different attitudes and behavior among different cultures. For the time being, suffice it to say that the care and respect for their young dead on the part of the more primitive Meroites and the X-Group people contrasts sharply with the lack of that attitude among the peoples of some highly developed cultures.

Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon

Miguel Civil

The Mesopotamians, faced with the extinction of Sumerian, the prestigious language of administration, cultic activities, and the traditional oral literature handed down through the centuries, compiled long lists of Sumerian words, often provided with an Akkadian translation, as well as paradigms and lists of grammatical elements, in order to preserve a language that had disappeared from everyday use. In a long-range project, the Oriental Institute some forty-five years ago decided to publish all preserved vocabularies and grammatical texts, as a subproject within the larger Assyrian Dictionary Project. (Information from the *MSL* is included throughout the *Assyrian Dictionary* and will form the basis of the contemplated Chicago Sumerian Dictionary, still far in the future.)

The late Benno Landsberger was asked to prepare the reconstruction and edition of these lexical materials, and to this task he devoted many years of his life. By the time of his death nine large volumes, of the projected total of eighteen, had appeared. The continuation of the project was entrusted to Erica Reiner and me, and up to this year three more have been published.

This year's progress on the *MSL* can be described in the numerical order of the volumes, even though that is not the same as the sequence in which they have been appearing. The eleventh volume was finally distributed in January, so the series is now complete up to Volume XIII. A short stay at the British Museum last December enabled me to collate once more some of the tablets published in Volume XIV, which, despite some technical and not-so-technical problems of the Italian printers, is still scheduled to appear in 1975. Preliminary work on Volume XV, the lexical series Proto-Diri and Diri, has begun. Dr. Antoine Cavigneaux, who is replacing Gene Gragg during his stay in Ethiopia, is working on part of the seventeenth volume, the series *Erimġuš*. Only Volumes XVI and XVIII remain after that, so the end is in sight.

The Assyrian Dictionary Project

Erica Reiner

Annual Reports of the Oriental Institute appear with a yearly punctuality that cannot be claimed by the *Assyrian Dictionary*. In fact, for the volume which is presently in press, proofreading alone will take more than a year. Therefore, this is but another interim report on the progress of the project.

Volume M was sent to the printer in the summer of 1974, and when it appears, probably in 1976, it will comprise two thick books: Maybe most marks made on mudbrick and marble in Mesopotamia manifested momentous meanings of much magnitude.

Meanwhile, editorial work is progressing on the next two letters of the alphabet, *N* and *P*. Half of Volume N has been edited so far; it will be another very large volume, and the editing, checking, and final reading of the manuscript will take another full year. Concurrently, however, Volume P is being edited by Robert D. Biggs. We were again fortunate to have Richard I. Caplice, professor at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley and at the University of California in Berkeley, return for the course of the summer of 1974, to continue and almost finish the manuscript of this volume that he had begun in the academic year 1971/72.

Looking ahead, we have also begun work on the manuscript of the letter *R*. For this volume, the visiting scholar is Dr. Kaspar K. Riemschneider, a James Henry Breasted Fellow who joined the staff of the CAD in November, 1974. He is the author of an Akkadian grammar written in German, which has just been translated into English and which is used in our classes in Elementary Babylonian. Among his specialties, apart from Akkadian, is Hittite. His collaboration on the CAD manuscripts has already proved very valuable.

Assyriologists from all over the world continue to participate in the project, some by reading manuscript and proof, others by sending us advance copies of their forthcoming publications, so that new words and important new references may be incorporated into the CAD volumes. The Dictionary is also host to scholars who come to consult

its files; in March, 1975, Professor Rykle Borger of the University of Göttingen spent two weeks here consulting the files for the revised edition of his *Akkadische Zeichenliste*. During his visit, he made valuable suggestions concerning our work. The international significance of the CAD for the scholarly world has again been acknowledged through a financial contribution from the Union International des Académies, which has for many years been assisting the CAD with sums significant not so much for their monetary value as for their evidence of moral encouragement.

A Hittite Dictionary Project

Harry A. Hoffner, Jr.

When I joined the staff of the Oriental Institute late in the summer of 1974, the time was opportune for a major work in Hittite philology involving a collaboration between Hans Güterbock and myself. We have decided to make a start in the production of a Hittite dictionary. The dictionary we envisage will not be as voluminous as the *Assyrian Dictionary*, but it will be as comprehensive. It should be no larger than two volumes when completed. We will attempt to include all the words that occur in published Hittite texts, even if at present no English translation can be offered for some. The Hittite context will be furnished in all cases where it might prove useful. Since Mr. Güterbock is a leading authority on questions of dating texts by script and orthography, the discussions of orthography and translation of each word will be organized diachronically, treating Old Hittite and Middle Hittite evidence first, followed by the New Hittite (Empire period) evidence.

We hope to be able to produce the dictionary in fascicles printed annually, the first appearing in 1977. Ten fascicles should accommodate the entire dictionary. Pooling our lexical files, we estimate that about 65 per cent of the collecting has been completed and that with an organized and properly funded effort the remaining 35 per cent can be collected within the next two years. After that point the collecting phase will be reduced to the less taxing effort of keeping current with newly appearing texts.

Obviously the pace of the work will depend on obtaining adequate funding, which we are presently seeking through various channels, especially the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Structure of Ancient Mesopotamian Society

I. J. Gelb

Since October 1, 1974, I have been working on a two-year project entitled "Earliest Systems of Land Tenure in the Near East," which is supported by a research grant of \$80,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant provides for two persons to assist me in the work. These positions are filled by Mr. Robert Whiting, research associate, and Mr. Piotr Steinkeller, research assistant.

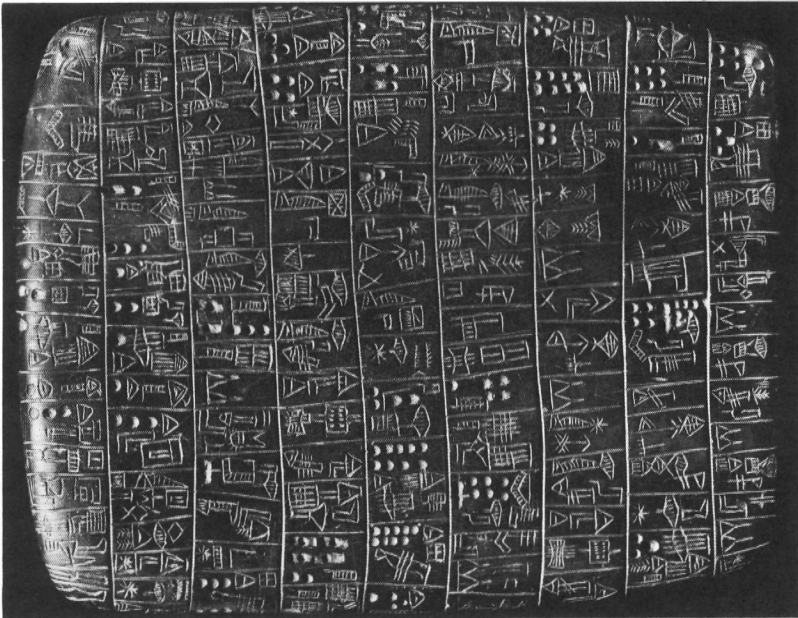
The past year has been devoted to the first stages of the project, which have included the final preparation of the primary sources for the study which will make up the first part of the published version. The primary sources consist of about 55 ancient kudurrus, which are almost exclusively written on stone, and sale transactions on clay, which number about 290.

The ancient kudurrus will be fully published with transliterations, hand copies, photographs, and charts with appropriate commentary. The transactions on clay will be treated primarily by means of charts showing the structure of the text and the significant terminology. The repetitive nature of these texts makes them particularly suited to this type of treatment. The preparation of the ancient kudurrus is being done in cooperation with Mr. Whiting, while the work on the clay documents is being carried out by Mr. Steinkeller.

While the sale documents on clay have been relatively well discussed, especially by those interested in their legal aspects, the ancient kudurrus have hardly been touched. The ancient kudurrus are stone documents that record the acquisition of land by an individual from other individuals and their families. Almost all kudurrus record multiple transactions, whereas the clay contracts always deal with a single sale or purchase. The kudurrus begin with the earliest writing in the Protoliterate Period (*ca.* 3100 B.C.) and continue down to the Sargonic

Period (*ca.* 2250 B.C.), but the individual sale contracts are not found until the Fara Period, late in Early Dynastic times (*ca.* 2450 B.C.), although they continue through the end of the third millennium and, in modified forms, throughout history.

Even this brief description of the ancient kudurrus makes their importance evident. Their great age (they date back to the beginning of written tradition in the fourth millennium B.C.) makes them easily the earliest documents relating to land tenure known anywhere. They indicate the passage of land from extended family groups and clans into the hands of private individuals and, together with the sale documents on clay, speak against the theory that all land property in early Mesopotamia was owned by the temple and/or state. This theory of state and temple ownership of all land property has been prevalent since the publication of the archives of the Bau Temple in Lagash over half a century ago and, until quite recently, was accepted as the starting point for discussions of Mesopotamian economy in the third millennium B.C. The ancient kudurrus show that this theory is in need of revision.



One of the ancient kudurrus, purchased in 1943 (Orinst A 25412). Internal evidence suggests that it came from Akkad, though the dealer claimed it was found at Lagash.

The importance of the ancient kudurrus, even in their own day, is further indicated by the fact that they were written on stone. Stone has always been scarce in Mesopotamia and was used only for the most important inscriptions such as royal monuments and dedicatory inscriptions and, of course, cylinder seals. Since the ancient kudurrus were written on stone, it is obvious that they were meant to be a lasting and monumental record of the purchase of land which served a different purpose from the clay documents on which the individual transactions were originally recorded. Whether this enduring record of purchase was intended for deposit in some central location or whether it was meant to be kept by the purchaser as proof of ownership for posterity cannot be determined at present.

The accompanying illustration shows a large and exceptionally handsome and well-preserved ancient kudurru presently on display in the Oriental Institute Museum. The stone inscription dates to the latter part of the Early Dynastic Period and is written in the Sumerian language and cuneiform writing system. At this stage of the development of writing, many of the signs still appear pictographic.

The stone, measuring $25 \times 32 \times 5.5$ cm., is inscribed in nine columns on both obverse and reverse and records the acquisition of sixteen parcels of land by an unnamed individual. A quite similar but less well preserved stone, now in the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, records the acquisition of seventeen parcels of land, also by an unnamed individual. Because of the similarity of the two stones, it is possible that they formed part of a set and that the final stone of the set, not yet discovered, gives the name of the purchaser of all the parcels of land listed on the set of tablets.

Generally, each transaction lists the size and location of the parcel of land, the price paid for it, the name of the seller, a list of gifts or additional payments given to the seller and his family, phrases which serve to legalize or solemnize the sale, and the witnesses to the transaction. The size of the plots of land varies from 6 acres to 132 acres and the sixteen parcels of land total 557 acres.

This kudurru is but one of the more than fifty which will be included in the primary sources to be published as a result of this research project. As this phase of the project nears completion, the coming year will be spent on secondary interpretation and socioeconomic commentary on the sources, which will comprise the second part of the study. When completed, the project will make available for the first time all the primary sources dealing with land tenure in the earliest periods of Mesopotamian history and will provide a new starting point for investigations into the ancient Mesopotamian society and economy.

The Coffin Texts Project

Tjalling Bruinsma

The Coffin Texts Project, the publication of translations of and commentary on the seven large volumes by the late Dr. Adriaan de Buck comprising all the known spells written on Egyptian coffins, has progressed this year. The translation, involving collation of a main text with variants and comparison of other scholars' translations, is completed through Spell 397 of Volume V. The commentary and literary analysis has proceeded through Spell 335 (Volume IV). The section describing orthographic and paleographic peculiarities of the "manuscripts" is as advanced as the translation. The glossary is complete through Spell 317 (Volume IV). Finally, the grammar I have been preparing, though not officially part of the Project, has been most useful in translating.

Seal Symposium

McGuire Gibson

From March 21 to 23 the Oriental Institute was host to a symposium on Seals and Sealing in the Ancient Near East. It concerned ancient stamp and cylinder seals. Seals, especially Mesopotamian cylinders, have been the subject of many books, articles, and dissertations, but they are usually studied in terms of what is shown on them and the relationships that can be derived from a consideration of style and design elements. This symposium had a different focus, namely the use of seals: how they were applied, by whom, and on what. It was hoped that such an approach could give indications about the legal, administrative, and bureaucratic context of seals.

The symposium was basically an Institute production, and most of the papers were given by our faculty and students. We did have some visitors, however. Professor Edith Porada of Columbia University came to discuss the class implications in the fact that seals in one



A typical ancient clay jar stopper with multiple sealings from Nippur.

place could vary in workmanship. Hans J. Nissen, formerly a member of our faculty, flew in from Berlin to give a paper on hierarchical social structure as expressed in early seal design. Mogens Trolle Larsen came from Copenhagen to present a lecture on sealing practice among the Old Assyrian merchants in Anatolian trade colonies hundreds of miles from Assur. William L. Rathje from the University of

Arizona showed that the type of seal and the material it was made of (lapis lazuli, carnelian, etc.) seem to suggest status differences.

Institute contributions included Johannes Renger's summation of the legal use of seals throughout Mesopotamian history. I. J. Gelb classified seals with inscriptions on them, and Miguel Civil discussed various terms in Sumerian and Akkadian dealing with the manufacture and use of seals. Judith Franke, Richard Zettler, Piotr Steinkeller, and Robert Whiting presented papers dealing with various aspects of sealing, especially official seals, royal seals, and the like, for the Akkadian through early Old Babylonian periods (from 2350 to about 1800 B.C.). For material to compare with Mesopotamian sealing practice, we had a paper on sealing in Hittite lands by Hans G. Güterbock and a presentation by Richard T. Hallock concerning sealing on a group of tablets from Persepolis. Through a careful study of the seals used on particular tablets, Mr. Hallock was able to lay out part of the landscape around Persepolis and show how it was administered. Bruce Williams and Janet Johnson gave us a view of Egyptian seals and sealings, making it clear that the legal aspects of Mesopotamian sealing were not shared in Egypt, where seals were used mostly to safeguard goods in storage and transport. My contribution was the organizing of the symposium, general comments at the beginning and end of the meeting, and an attempt to show how seals were used in sacred and secular areas of Nippur from the earliest periods through the Islamic.

Before, during, and after the symposium we had informal lectures and meetings with the various visiting contributors and with William Sumner, from Ohio State University, who has been carrying out excavations at the Iranian city of Anshan (Tell i-Maliyan). Denise Schmandt-Besserat of the University of Texas has done some work on the earliest kinds of accounting with sealed clay balls and contributed interesting additions to the discussion. The entire symposium was designed to be as informal as possible so that there would be relaxed discussion and a free flow of ideas. I think we achieved this atmosphere, and the lively exchanges were the better for it. Consultations with a publisher are underway, and we expect to have the results of the symposium in print within a year.

Research Archives

Charles Cornell Van Siclen III

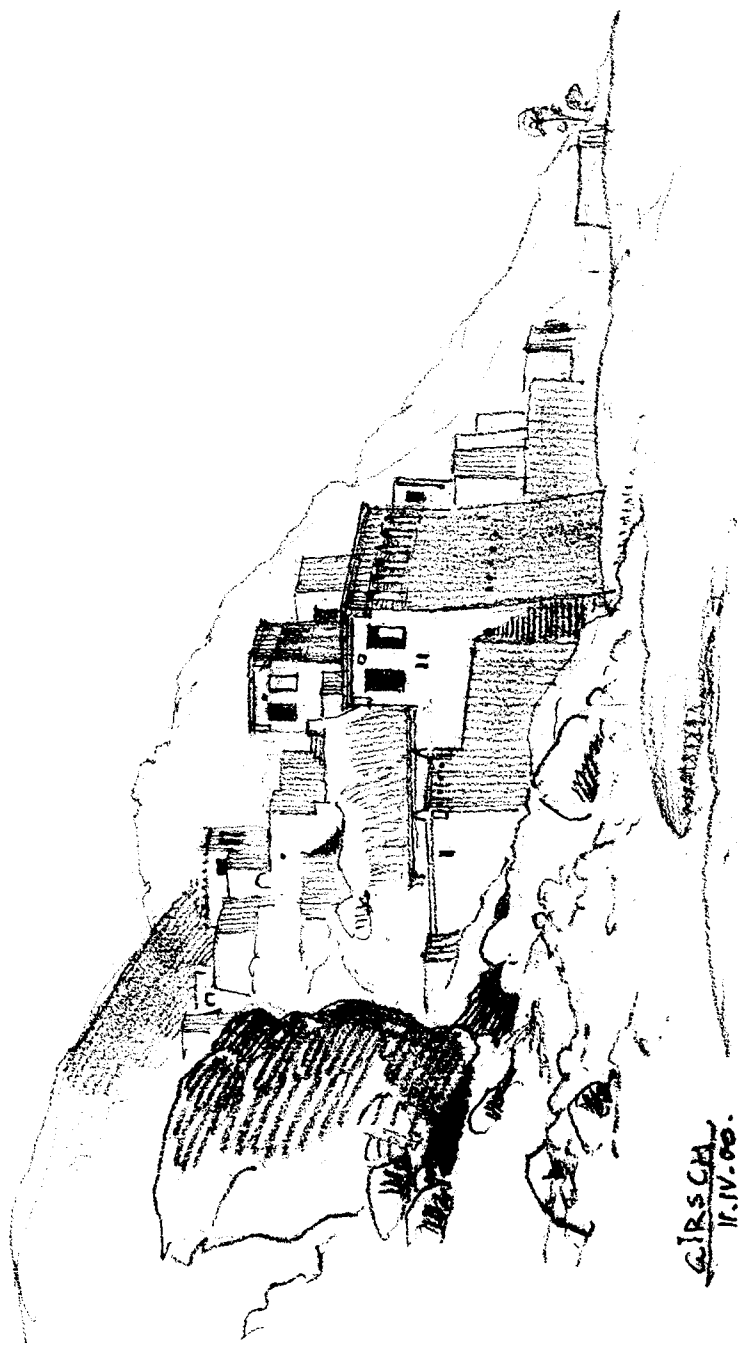
During the past year, the Research Archives has become an integral part of the Oriental Institute, providing reference materials in the areas of ancient Near Eastern archeology, cuneiform studies, and Egyptology. Of special advantage are subscriptions to more than one hundred current journals of relevant interest. The usage of the reading room has risen to an average 340 man-hours of research and study per week, an increase of nearly 80 per cent over last year's figures. Often there are now as many users in a single day as there once were in an entire week!

The collection of the Research Archives has grown in a fashion appropriate to its increased usage, although it is still far short of being complete. At the conclusion of a statistical year ending May 15, 1975, the collection contained the following:

Monographs	3079 volumes
Series	1910
Journals	2256
Microfiche editions	73
Total Books	7318
Pamphlets (est.)	5395 items

This marks an effective increase during the year of 1353 volumes in the collection. The larger part of this growth has taken place in the fields of archeology and cuneiform studies. It has been possible to acquire or complete numerous sets of pertinent journals and series (e.g., *Israel Exploration Journal*, *Berytus*, Selim Hassan's *Excavations at Giza*, and Maurice Dunand's *Fouilles de Byblos*).

Particular attention should be drawn to a new category that appears in the archive statistics: microfiche editions. The microfiche is a relatively new method of reproducing books, somewhat similar to microfilm; but it differs from the latter in that the books reproduced take the form of a series of sheets of film (ca. 4" × 5") which contain photographs of up to one hundred pages of an original book, whereas microfilm is a strip of film with the pages reproduced on adjacent frames in the film. As in microfilm, the microfiche is viewed on a



The village of Girsch, April 11, 1900, by Hermann Thiersch.

small, illuminated screen. The advantages of this new system are several. Microfiche is easier to use than microfilm; it requires less storage space than a regular book; and it costs less than conventional reprinted editions or rare and often expensive original editions. It may be noted that many of the Oriental Institute's publications are now available in microfiche. In future years, a large proportion of individual titles and of journals whose use is restricted to occasional consultation will be acquired in this form.

A number of exchanges with related scholarly institutions throughout the world have been undertaken during the past year, and their cooperation has been greatly appreciated. Additional exchanges are currently in process. As usual thanks go out to those people who have generously contributed to the Research Archives. Special mention is owed to Professor Raymond A. Bowman for his contribution of a number of accounts of travel in the Near East in the nineteenth century and to the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* for its continued assistance. The work of the Research Archives could not have been done without the help of its able staff for the past year: John A. Larson, Margaret C. Root, and Howard M. Farber.

Two new services have been instituted by the Research Archives during the last year in the hope that better use might be made of its collections. A list of recent acquisitions is now produced at the end of each month, and it is available for consultation. This list shows not only what recently printed books have been received, but also how coverage of various subject areas has been expanded. Because of the limited staff, it is impossible for us to provide complete cataloging of all items received; however, a selective subject index of all books received bearing an imprint of 1969 or later is in the course of compilation. This will serve as a supplement to the published catalogue of the old Oriental Institute Library.

Of special interest among our collection of unpublished works and papers is a sketchbook by Hermann Thiersch, 1874-1939, a German architectural historian who specialized in classical antiquity and the Near East. His small portfolio, "Nubien und Ägypten," contains a series of some 28 pencil drawings made during a visit to Egypt and Nubia in the winter of 1900. The drawings record village architecture now submerged beneath the waters of Lake Nasser behind the Aswan High Dam, as well as inscriptions, diagrams, and a collection of sailing vessels and a Red Sea steamer.

The Research Archives is available for use by members of the Oriental Institute, and they are cordially invited to make use of its resources.

Publications

Jean Eckenfels

Going Forth by Day—the designation sometimes used on the papyrus rolls buried beside the deceased in his coffin—expressed the idea the ancient Egyptian held of death and the afterlife. Now more commonly called the Book of the Dead, these compositions were devised to realize the longing to return by day, to visit again at will the scenes of everyday life on earth.

The Book of the Dead or Going Forth By Day ("Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization," No. 37), by T. George Allen, who was Oriental Institute editorial secretary from 1927 until 1951, was published posthumously and was prepared for publication by Mrs. Elizabeth B. Hauser, who worked under Mr. Allen for two decades and succeeded him upon his retirement.

This volume is a carefully annotated "eclectic" translation of all the spells yet numbered (192) plus some insertions. Earlier versions of many of these spells can be found in the Coffin Texts, compositions written on wooden coffins in the 19th or 20th century B.C., and even in the Pyramid Texts of the 23rd or 24th century B.C. In time the papyri came to be "mass-produced" and the name of the deceased was filled in at the time of purchase. But eventually the documents themselves took on magical properties to the extent that the blanks left for the name of the beneficiary often were not filled in. Important as it is for its scholarly contribution, this book will doubtless find a wide general audience because of the highly readable style of Mr. Allen's presentation.

Two reports on the Institute's excavations at Nippur are in preparation. Richard C. Haines's volume on the North Temple and Sounding E, *Nippur II* ("Oriental Institute Publications," Vol. XCVII), has been temporarily withheld from publication so that the epigraphic material from the 1951/52 and 1953/54 seasons being prepared by Robert D. Biggs can be included in the volume. Production will begin during the summer.

The preliminary report on the 1972/73 season at Nippur, *Excavations at Nippur: Eleventh Season* ("Oriental Institute Communications," No. 22), by McGuire Gibson, with appendices by Miguel

Civil, Janet H. Johnson, and Stephen A. Kaufman, is nearing completion and should be published in the fall. The volume will include a catalogue of pottery and other objects, sherd drawings, and more photographs than usual for a preliminary report.

On June 7, 1974, Thorkild Jacobsen, former director of the Oriental Institute and a renowned Sumerologist, was honored for his seventieth birthday with the presentation of a collection of essays on Sumerian language and civilization. The publication of these essays, edited by Stephen J. Lieberman of New York University, has been undertaken by the Oriental Institute, and they are scheduled to appear in the series "Assyriological Studies." Topics covered by the contributors to the *Festschrift* include language, geography, economic and social structure, law, lexicography, schools, and literature. Samuel Noah Kramer, in his assessment of Mr. Jacobsen, describes him as "a heroic figure in cuneiform research."

Individual Research Projects

Following his resignation as Dean of the Division of Social Sciences, effective September 30, 1974, Robert Adams spent the rest of the year devoted to research projects. He participated in a conference in Riyadh planning for a large-scale survey of Saudi Arabian archaeological sites, probably to begin in the winter of 1976, and then spent approximately six months continuing his ceramic survey work in southern Iraq.

During his final year as chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Klaus Baer's researches concentrated on two subjects. "The Social and Economic Role of the Temple in Old Kingdom Egypt," a series of lectures given at Brigham Young University in March, is being prepared for publication. Among Mr. Baer's conclusions: most of the men in Egyptian towns held priestly appointments, and it was actual work in the fields that provided most of the temple income, which in turn was passed on to other temples, with royal mortuary temples at the end of the chain, or to members of the temple staff. Mr. Baer has also re-examined the chronology of the earlier period of Egyptian history (complementing Messrs. Wente's and Van Siclen's work on the New Kingdom) and discovered that changes are required in the accepted dating system. In particular, the interval between the end of the Memphite Old Kingdom and the beginning of

Dynasty XI in 2134 must have been substantially more than the zero-to-forty years generally accepted.

Robert D. Biggs has begun work on the cache of 130 letters found at Nippur in the last season. He has been asked to participate in a conference called "Krankheit, Heilkunst, Heilung" ("Illness, Medicine, Healing") at the Institut für historische Anthropologie in September, so he is again studying Babylonian medicine.

Robert J. Braidwood lectured at UCLA and the University of Texas on the appearance of village farming communities and, with Linda S. Braidwood, gave seminars at the Sorbonne, Groningen, Göteborg, and Istanbul at the time of their spring trip to Europe. They both attended the National Academy of Science and American Philosophical Society meetings in the spring, and Mr. Braidwood chaired a session at the Archaeological Institute of America meetings in the winter.

John Brinkman has recently published articles on the Kassite and Neo-Babylonian monarchies in a book edited by Paul Garelli entitled *Le palais et la royauté* (Paris, 1974). In addition, he has contributed biographies of two Middle Assyrian historical figures to the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*, Vol. I/J (forthcoming). In collaboration with Douglas Kennedy (Paris), he is preparing a catalogue and edition of eighth- and seventh-century B.C. legal and economic documents from Babylonia. He was elected a trustee of the American Schools of Oriental Research (spring, 1975) and is now engaged, under the sponsorship of the National Endowment for the Humanities, in teaching an intensive summer seminar on the "Assyrian and Babylonian Empires, 745-539 B.C." to teachers selected from various colleges and universities around the country.

Miguel Civil has been working on a volume called "Sumerian Writing and Phonology," which will include a list of Sumerian values of the cuneiform signs, a much-needed research tool in the field. A "Catalogue of Sumerian Literary Compositions" has been accepted for publication as *Handbuch der Keilschriftliteratur* IV. It includes the title, opening line, list of sources, and bibliography for every known Sumerian literary work. Mr. Civil is also preparing the catalogue of tablets found at Nippur during the twelfth campaign; articles on some of those and some from the eleventh season have already appeared, and Mr. Civil intends to try a new method of publishing tablets, in the microfiche format from photographs rather than hand copies. Mr. Civil has completed a long essay, to appear in the Jacobsen *Festschrift*, on the state of Sumerian lexicography.

Much of McGuire Gibson's personal research is related to his work at Nippur. This year he composed reports on the eleventh and twelfth

seasons and wrote journal articles. In July, 1974, he gave a slide lecture on Nippur at the Rencontre Assyriologique in Rome and participated in the Arabian Studies Seminar in Oxford, England. In November he was a party to a conference in Riyadh on the beginning of an archeological program in Saudi Arabia and visited Damascus and Baghdad to discuss possibilities of new field work as well as continuation at Nippur. In February, 1975, Mr. Gibson presented a lecture at the University of Texas, under the title "By Stage and Cycle to Sumer," on a theory about the rise and maintenance of Mesopotamian civilization. In May of this year he was visiting scholar at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and gave a lecture and several classes on the origins of civilization in the ancient Near East. Mr. Gibson's interest in the ecological aspects of ancient civilizations continues; and, as part of his effort to include as much information from written sources as possible, he cooperated with Miguel Civil on a seminar devoted to agriculture, horticulture, food products, and manufactures as seen from art, archeology, and cuneiform.

Gene B. Gragg has spent this year in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, collecting material for his Oromo dictionary. His stay there was preceded by a short visit in Paris to consult Sumerian tablets at the Louvre.

Hans G. Güterbock contributed a paper to the Institute's Seal Symposium, in which he observes, among other things, that Hittite women had their own seals or shared a two-faced seal with their husbands. This lecture was also given at the University of Pennsylvania and, in part, at the American Oriental Society meeting. He continued to work on the musical notation from Ugarit and lectured on it at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago in January. A number of articles studying diverse aspects of the Hittites appeared, including ones on "The Hittite Palace" and "The Hittite Temple." Mr. Güterbock collaborated with Harry Hoffner on plans for the Hittite Dictionary Project and continued as president of the American Research Institute in Turkey.

During 1974 two volumes appeared which were either totally or partially the work of Harry A. Hoffner, Jr. Totally his work was the book *Alimenta Hethaeorum* ("American Oriental Society Monograph" series), an exhaustive review of the agricultural calendar and the various types of food produced and consumed by the Hittites (ca. 1700-1200 B.C.). The book represents the culmination of over six years of research and composition. Appearing under the authorship of a free-lance writer for Time-Life Books, Inc., was the book *The Empire Builders* ("Emergence of Man" series), for which Mr. Hoffner was the principal technical consultant. Much of the author's information was

supplied by him, including English translations of all the Hittite texts cited in the book. But since the editors were under no obligation to accept all of Mr. Hoffner's criticisms of the manuscript, the text does not represent his ideas in all points. Articles appearing in 1974 include "Hittites and Hurrians," in Oxford University Press's *People of Old Testament Times*, edited by D. J. Wiseman, and a number of lexical studies. In the fall of 1974 Mr. Hoffner presented two lectures at the University of Toronto dealing with the historiography of the Hittites as compared with that of the Assyrians and Babylonians. Finally, much of Mr. Hoffner's time has been spent in preparations for the Hittite Dictionary Project.

With the aid of a grant-in-aid from the American Council of Learned Societies, Janet H. Johnson spent a month in Leiden studying the Demotic magical spells on the verso of Leiden I 384, the recto of which contains a well-known Demotic mythological tale which includes, among other stories, the Aesopian fable of the lion and the mouse. In addition to preparing these magical spells for publication (in the journal of the Leiden Antiquities Museum), she has been working on her study of the Demotic verbal system, based primarily on two Ptolemaic and two Roman period Demotic texts. This manuscript should be ready for publication this summer.

Since the last Annual Report all of Helene J. Kantor's research time has been taken up by Chogha Mish in one way or another, for example, carrying on in Chicago with the recording and analysis of data accruing each season, handling expedition administrative details, and dealing with the minutiae of assembling the final illustrative material for "Oriental Institute Communications," No. 23. During the summer of 1974 Pinhas Delougaz came to Chicago so that they could work together intensively on revision and amplification of the Chogha Mish interim report. In a short report on the sixth and seventh seasons, the families of Archaic Susiana pottery were presented for the first time in print: "The Čoqā Miš Excavations—1972-73," *Proceedings of the IIInd Annual Symposium on Archaeological Research in Iran* (Teheran, 1974).

James Knudstad is now finishing up the architectural details for a publication with Oleg Grabar and others of the excavations at Qasr al-Hayr, Syria. Next fall will be his fifth season with the Smithsonian Institution's Afghanistan expedition, and in addition he will be involved in a project of contract exploration and survey with the Saudi Arabian Department of Antiquities.

Wilferd Madelung's edition of Arabic texts from Yemenite manuscripts concerning the history of the Caspian regions of Iran in the

eighth to thirteenth centuries A.D. has been completed. The mountain country of both the Elburz and the Yemen during that period provided a haven for communities of the Shiite Zaydi sect, which maintained close ties with one another. After the disintegration of the Caspian Zaydi community in the sixteenth century, much of its literary heritage, including biographical and historical texts, continued to be preserved in the Yemen. These texts have been collected and prepared for edition for the first time. Other research included the study of a manuscript recently acquired by the University Library of Tübingen that offers significant new information on the sources of Ismā'īlī religious law and an analysis of a manuscript refutation of Avicenna's metaphysics by al-Shahrastānī revealing crypto-Ismā'īlī leanings in the latter author. Work on the edition of a major Mu'tazilī theological book of the twelfth century, undertaken jointly with Martin J. McDermott, S.J., has been continued.

Erica Reiner held a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship for work on Babylonian Planetary Omens. Astronomical commentary on these omens is being provided by David Pingree, of the University of Chicago, now on leave of absence at Brown University, who himself has just been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. Miss Reiner spent the month of September at the British Museum in London and expects to return there in the summer of 1975. The first fascicle of the projected publication of these omens, concerning the planet Venus, the so-called Venus Tablet of Ammišaduqa that has played an important role in all discussions of the chronology of the First Dynasty of Babylon, is in press and is scheduled to appear shortly in the series "Bibliotheca Mesopotamica."

Johannes Renger is continuing his work on the economic history of the Old Babylonian Period (ca. 2000-1594 B.C.). An article on the sacred marriage ritual was published recently in the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*.

Kaspar K. Riemschneider has been engaged principally in writing articles for the manuscript of the *CAD*, Volumes N and R. He has also prepared two papers, one on the teaching of Akkadian to archeologists, which he will read at a symposium in Groningen at the end of this year, the other on prison and punishment in ancient Anatolia, which was read at this year's meeting of the American Oriental Society in Columbus, Ohio. Two contributions to the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* and two short notes, one about a Hittite loan translation from Akkadian, the other on a Standard Babylonian writing convention, are ready for publication.

Michael Rowton has continued his research on relations between nomad and sedentary, between tribal society and urban society, with

strong emphasis on the physical environment. The third article in the series, on enclosed nomadism, appeared in the *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* (1974). Three further articles will be published in 1976: "Dimorphic Structure and the Problem of the 'apirû-'ibrîm,'" in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, "Dimorphic Structure and Topology" in *Oriens Antiquus*, and "The State and the Tribal Elite," in *Studia Instituti Anthropos*.

Lawrence Stager has participated actively in archeological field work under the auspices of the American Schools of Oriental Research. In the summer of 1974, he excavated at Idalion in Cyprus until the war forced the evacuation of the expedition. In the spring of 1975, he participated in a dig on the site of ancient Carthage.

In addition to his work with the Epigraphic Survey, Kent R. Weeks devoted a portion of this past year to continued work on his survey of Egyptian prehistory and the origins of dynastic civilization. He also began the laborious cataloguing of the *materia medica* used in the Papyrus Ebers as the first step in a lexicographic study of Egyptian pharmaceutical preparations and of drug combinations in the Ebers prescriptions. Mr. Weeks delivered a paper on Egyptian cultural categories at an international congress of Egyptologists held in Cairo and has prepared for publication several articles related to that topic.

Edward F. Wente's reconsideration of the chronology of the Eighteenth Dynasty had suggested that the accession of Ramesses II occurred in 1279 B.C. rather than the more commonly accepted 1290 or 1304. During the past year Mr. Wente's research has concentrated on determining how well this revised date fits in with later chronology. After the accession of Ramesses II, the next "fixed" date in Egyptian history is the accession of Shoshenq I, the founder of the Twenty-second Dynasty. In a review of K. A. Kitchen's *Third Intermediate Period in Egypt* to appear in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, Wente discusses the date of the beginning of the Twenty-second Dynasty, which he places at 946 B.C. on grounds quite different from Kitchen's argument, but essentially corroborating his date of 945. By adding the known lengths of reigns of pharaohs from Ramesses II to Shoshenq I onto this date, one arrives at 1279 for the accession of Ramesses II. Because the year-by-year documentation of a major part of the Ramesside period, from the middle of the reign of Ramesses II to the reign of Ramesses X, is so abundant, there is statistically little room for an additional eleven or twenty-five years needed to arrive at 1290 or 1304 for the accession of Ramesses II. The results of the investigation into the chronology of the New Kingdom are to be published in an article being prepared by Mr. Wente and Mr.

Charles Van Siclen. During the past year Mr. Wente's article on the history of Egypt from the beginning of the Eighteenth Dynasty to ca. 330 B.C. appeared in the new *Encyclopaedia Britannica, Macropedia*, Volume 6.

The Oriental Institute Museum

Gustavus F. Swift

During the past few years, the objective of the Museum's exhibition policy has been to strengthen, improve, and modernize the displays of the Institute's permanent collection. Recently, most of the available means and effort have gone into the exhibits of sculpture and funerary equipment in the Egyptian Hall. Three developments in other areas took place in the year just past: the acquisition by exchange of two new Assyrian reliefs, a temporary exhibition celebrating the centenary of John Davison Rockefeller, Jr., and the formation of plans for a thorough revision of the Babylonian Hall.

Now mounted in Alcove M of the Assyrian Hall, the new reliefs come from the Palace at Nimrud (ancient Kalhu) of King Ashurnasirpal II, a ruler of great historical importance who reigned from 883 to 859 B.C. They, with many others transported to the British Museum, were recovered by Sir Austen Henry Layard in his first excavation at Nimrud in 1846. Our new pieces and one of two Persepolis column bases, which came to the Oriental Institute in 1936, were the substance of an exchange with the British Museum. Under negotiation for some years, this exchange was first discussed by Professor P. P. Delougaz, the former Curator here, and Dr. R. D. Barnett, former Keeper of the Department of Western Asiatic Antiquities in the British Museum, and was concluded with Dr. Edmond Sollberger, the present Keeper.

The smaller relief shows the head of King Ashurnasirpal II himself, recognizable by his royal tiara. The larger is a full-length figure of a protective and beneficent minor deity of the Assyrian religion, conventionally—and for want of a better identification—called a Winged Genius. His horned headdress as well as the wings demonstrate his divine nature; his raised right hand holds something resembling a pine cone, and his left, a bucket. Both pieces are of very fine workmanship and in excellent condition, and the subject matter of



Photos by Jean Grant



each fills a vacancy in the Institute's collection. Being a century and a half older than the Museum's reliefs from the Palace of King Sargon II found in our own excavation at Khorsabad, they show differences of style that now give our exhibits another broad dimension.

At the request of President Levi, the Museum presented in December a commemorative exhibition in honor of the centenary of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (1874-1960). The exhibition focused on Mr. Rockefeller's relationship with James Henry Breasted (1865-1935), the founder of the Oriental Institute, in full consciousness of Mr. Rockefeller's many generous benefactions to other parts of the University and to his other large-scale humanistic undertakings. Using original letters and documents, photographs, publications, and antiquities, the exhibition highlighted two incidents in the long association of the two men, as well as those Oriental Institute and related enterprises in which Mr. Rockefeller was most actively interested. The first event, in early 1919, was the founding of the Institute upon Breasted's proposal and Rockefeller's initial and long-continued support, leading directly to Breasted's Near Eastern trip of exploration and reconnaissance, diplomacy, and acquisition of antiquities in that year and the next. A selection of the finest objects purchased during this trip formed part

of the exhibition. The second event, in 1929, was a grand tour of the Nile and of Palestine and Syria, upon which Breasted conducted a party headed by Mr. and Mrs. Rockefeller and their son David. The scientific work commemorated by the exhibition included Breasted's discoveries at Dura (Salihiye), Syria, in 1920; the excavations of Megiddo in Palestine and of Khorsabad in Iraq; the Palestine Museum in Jerusalem; Amice M. Calverley's publication, *The Temple of King Sethos I at Abydos*; and Nina M. Davies' two splendid volumes of *Ancient Egyptian Paintings*. The Oriental Institute is deeply indebted to the Rockefeller Family Archives, the Rockefeller Foundation Archives, and the University of Chicago Libraries, Special Collections, for the loan of materials for this exhibition. Its preparation was a challenging and illuminating experience for the Museum staff, all of whom participated in it.

By spring, 1974, plans were under way for the reorganization of the exhibits in the Babylonian Hall, under a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, matched by University funds. With the growth of the collection and the installation of special exhibits over recent years, some of our best material has been displaced and the general organization of the hall has become less clear and comprehensible to the visitor. Present plans call for a generally topical arrangement of materials somewhat like that of the Egyptian Hall and for a comprehensive view of the successive stages of Mesopotamian civilization from the prehistoric Ubaid period to the Late Babylonian of the sixth century B.C. This project may be expected to produce a long-range improvement of the Museum's capacities in the areas of interpretation, labeling and display.

Closely related to effective exhibition is the function of adequately informing the public and the professional world about our collections by other means. The Museum has long felt the lack of an adequate handbook. The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded another grant, generously matched by the Barker Welfare Foundation, for the preparation of copy for such a publication over a two-year period running from 1974 to 1976. In the year past, necessary information has been compiled on important parts of the Egyptian, Mesopotamian and Iranian collections, by Susan J. Allen, David P. Silverman, Elizabeth Stone, Donald Whitcomb and Richard Zettler, all advanced students or recent graduates, under the supervision of Assistant Curators Judith A. Franke and David W. Nasgowitz. Plans for the coming year provide for the writing of sections on Egypt and Mesopotamia, and for efforts to secure publication.

It is a pleasure, as always, to express one's gratitude for the skill and energy of the Museum staff, whose names are given elsewhere, to the Museum volunteers whose help has come to mean more and more, and to the volunteer docents who contribute so greatly to the Museum's effectiveness and liveliness.

The Conservation Laboratory

Barbara Jane Hall

There are two aspects of museum conservation: the first centers around the work done in the laboratory, cleaning and treating archeological materials in need of attention, for example, corroding metals that must be stabilized, fragmenting limestone reliefs and pottery contaminated by salts that must be soaked out, or embrittled and fragile wood and leather objects that are crumbling and need to be strengthened. The second aspect, equally important, involves climate control—maintaining a stable and suitably controlled atmosphere—within the exhibition and storage areas of the museum.

Aging of all organic (wood, leather, ivory, textile) and inorganic (metal, stone, pottery, glass) material occurs naturally through the years in the presence of light, oxygen, and moisture, which initiate the chemical changes causing deterioration. With objects buried for thousands of years, the severity of decay depends on the material of the artifact and its interaction with the burial environment. In conditions favorable to survival, chemical reactions in the ground will be minimal; the object will react with and exhaust the chemicals in its immediate area and soon achieve a state of equilibrium with its environment, and will be excavated in reasonably good condition. In adverse conditions where agents of deterioration such as salts, oxygen, moisture, and biological activity fluctuate or are constantly renewed, equilibrium between object and environment is never achieved; these excavated objects will be poorly preserved.

In either case, once an object is brought out of the ground, it is subjected to different environmental conditions with which an equilibrium again must be established, and these conditions are not necessarily more favorable to survival than those in the ground. In a mu-

seum atmosphere an artifact may be subjected to fluctuations of temperature and relative humidity, to corrosive air pollutants, and to excessive levels of light, all of which continue the chemical and physical deterioration begun during burial.

Temperature and relative humidity are interdependent factors, and the constant fluctuation of one or both presents a serious danger to museum objects, since each material has a range best suited to it. For most materials, a temperature of 70° Fahrenheit is satisfactory; too high a temperature accelerates chemical reactions while prolonged high temperature, combined with the presence of oxygen, breaks apart the long-chain carbon molecules that make up organic materials and causes embrittlement and loss of strength. In addition, inorganic and organic materials expand as temperature becomes higher and contract as it becomes lower; this dimensional change places fragile objects under a physical stress that continues to weaken them.

Metals are best kept at the low humidity of 30 per cent to prevent excessive atmospheric moisture from initiating corrosion. But organic materials, which naturally hold a certain amount of water in their cellular structure, must not be allowed to become too dry—too low a humidity shrinks and warps wood, cracks ivory, and embrittles leather—and a humidity of 50 to 55 per cent is generally satisfactory. Many organic materials are hygroscopic and are able to absorb moisture from the air during days of high humidity, expanding as they do so; as the humidity falls, the moisture is given up, causing the object to contract. Here again, the object is subjected to dimensional changes that not only weaken it but also loosen a paint or gesso layer if one is present.

The range of temperature and relative humidity within the Oriental Institute Museum is great both daily (the humidity on a summer day can go from 47 to 76 per cent) and seasonally (a low of 11 per cent recorded in the winter with a high of 76 per cent recorded in the summer). To some extent the enclosed exhibition cases serve as a buffer against the sudden drastic daily changes, but they are not sufficiently airtight to protect against seasonal variations. Objects in the basement stored in cardboard boxes are especially vulnerable to such changes. In museum cases containing sensitive material, small instruments showing temperature and humidity can be seen. Very often the readings are not ideal, but without a climate control system within the Museum, little can be done to create proper exhibit and storage conditions.

Another great danger to museum objects exists in the gaseous air pollutants—sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, nitrogen oxides, and

ozone—that result from industrial wastes in incomplete combustion of fuels. Under certain conditions sulfur dioxide will react with atmospheric moisture to form sulfuric acid, which chemically attacks all types of materials; for example, bronze and copper objects develop sulfate corrosion products; leather and cellulose (wood, papyrus, linen, cotton) products become embrittled and powdery; and the surface of limestone and marble, stones composed mainly of calcium carbonate, is converted to calcium sulfate, a compound that occupies a larger volume than the carbonate and thus causes the stone surface to powder or flake.

Nitrogen oxides from auto exhausts are acted upon by sunlight to produce ozone, familiar to Chicagoans from the frequently announced ozone alerts. Ozone is particularly damaging to those objects composed of cellulose, breaking the double bond that occurs between carbon atoms.

Hydrogen sulfide attacks metal, especially silver, which it tarnishes.

In addition to gases, small solid particles—soot, grit, and dust—are carried through the air and come into the Museum on visitors' clothes, through the ventilation system, and through cracks around windows. Many of these particles are tarry and difficult to remove once they adhere to objects. Some contain pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, and others will attract moisture to hasten deterioration.

Light also plays an important role in the degradation of materials. A beam of sunlight falling on an object causes a localized increase of temperature which may be great enough to crack the object. Besides heat generation, it is the invisible ultraviolet portion of light that does the most damage, acting with oxygen to break the molecular bonds in objects of organic origin: it causes dyes to fade, and ivory, textiles, leather, wood, and papyrus to discolor and become brittle.

To protect objects, the level of illumination in the Museum is kept low. Curtains exclude strong daylight, and the fluorescent tubes—which also emit a high level of ultraviolet radiation—used to light the exhibit cases are covered with a plastic filter to absorb the harmful portion of the light.

Thus, the work done in the laboratory is only half of the job of preserving artifacts. Climate control within the Museum is critical if objects are to remain in satisfactory condition. Such a system would maintain temperature and humidity at constant levels, eliminating the damage that such fluctuations cause, and air pollutants would be filtered out. The Institute has plans for such a system, but the cost is high, over \$3,000,000, and it may be many years before the plans are realized.

As a partial solution to one aspect of the problem, the Museum is planning the construction of a basement storage room for metal objects which would keep temperature and relative humidity at a low enough level, 70° F. and 30 per cent, to prevent corrosion, a great problem in the present storage area. The estimated cost for such a project is \$13,000. This includes:

- \$4,500 for dehumidification and air conditioning
- 2,000 for room construction and lighting
- 6,500 for four metal storage cabinets

We hope to be able to raise money for this special room within the next year, since it is greatly needed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. William Boyd of Lake Wales, Florida, who responded to our appeal in last year's Annual Report for a microscope. Because of his generosity, we have been able to purchase a Nikon high-power polarizing microscope with a special attachment for photographic work. Among its many uses will be the identification of fibers and pigments and metallographic analysis.

The Photographic Laboratory

Jean Grant

One of the Oriental Institute's most valuable treasures is not on display in the Museum, nor can most of it be found in our publications. It is our enormous photographic archives. Photographs contain information that cannot be communicated in the written word; many of our photographs contain information that could never be recovered if lost. The photographs document the sequential operations of archeology, in which upper layers must be destroyed to reveal lower ones; they preserve views of sites and customs of the Near East long vanished into the twentieth century; they make possible the study in Chicago of objects housed in other institutions around the world; and often they are the sole remaining record of artifacts, particularly clay tablets, that have deteriorated since their discovery into little more

than piles of dust and pebbles. And, in fact, much of this information is in danger of being lost.

The reason is outmoded technology. The glass-plate and nitrate-film negatives used when the Institute began collecting photographs are no longer satisfactory. Glass breaks; nitrates decompose, not only disintegrating themselves, but also exuding fumes that affect nearby film. Some darkroom work was done in the field under less than ideal conditions, producing less than satisfactory results. Some 20,000 negatives are affected by these and other considerations. They can be saved, but only if work begins very soon. On the one hand, people—volunteers, for now—are needed to help. But on the other hand, very little can be done with our photographic laboratory equipped as it is.

Most of our equipment was purchased between twenty and forty years ago. While it continues to function, it does so neither very well nor very efficiently. Some equipment, such as that necessary for water filtration and temperature control, we have never had. The conservation of our negative archive cannot begin until some new apparatus is acquired. This priceless scholarly resource must be preserved. Here is what the photo lab needs:

Stainless steel darkroom sink	\$864.00
Photo mounting press	293.00
Drum dryer	610.00
Print washer	600.00
Water filtration and temperature control units	
Small darkroom, 3 needed	296.00 each
Large darkroom, 3 needed	296.00 each
5" × 7" view camera	595.00
Revolving 4" × 5" back	
for above camera	135.00
Lenses: 150 mm.	343.00
Lenses: 210 mm.	494.00
Lenses: 9 ½"	585.00
Lenses: 14"	763.00

The Membership Program

Bernard A. Lalor

In 1941, the outbreak of the Second World War forced the Friends of the Oriental Institute to disband as an organization. Several years after the close of that war, Director Carl H. Kraeling joined with friends and benefactors of the Institute to reorganize this group. In 1950, their efforts established a membership program that has continued for the past twenty-five years. As part of that program, newsletters from the expeditions in the field began in 1950 with an informal report of Robert J. Braidwood from Jarmo, Iraq. During the years, they poured in at random from all parts of the Near East and North Africa. Two years ago, archeological newsletters were incorporated as part of a monthly news bulletin, *News & Notes*. Following shortly after the first newsletters from the field, a series of lectures for members was begun to report on excavations and interesting discoveries concerning the ancient Near East. Lastly, in 1966, the first Institute-sponsored tour visited Turkey and its archeological sites as another aspect of the membership program.

Some of you will recall these developments in the membership program over the last twenty-five years. During this time a great many new friends of the Institute have joined, but sadly some familiar faces are gone. Last December, a special tie with the first Friends of the Oriental Institute, Mr. Chester D. Tripp, was gone. Mr. Tripp's lively interest in the Institute and its work began in the late 1930's and his generous patronage continued until his death. The Institute would like to pay homage to this man who had a long, vital, and rewarding life.

In this anniversary year, the total number of memberships has increased to over 1450. This increase, like that of the year before, resulted largely from the suggestions of present members. As Dr. Kraeling was indebted to those friends who helped add members during the early fifties, we are deeply grateful to the active friends who brought in new members throughout the year.

The lecture series this year highlighted two special events for the Institute. Mr. Kent R. Weeks, field director at Chicago House in Luxor, Egypt, commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the Epigraphic Survey in the opening lecture last fall. Messrs. John A. Brinkman

and McGuire Gibson heralded the arrival of the Assyrian reliefs with a lecture on their historical background and archeological significance. These reliefs, from the palace of Ashurnasirpal II at Nimrud in Iraq, arrived here as part of an exchange with the British Museum.

Other members of the Institute's staff spoke this year: Mr. Lawrence Stager described excavations at Idalion, Cyprus, and the expedition's precipitous evacuation during last summer's war; Mr. Harry A. Hoffner, Jr., analyzed historical perspective among the Hittites, describing the various kinds of history that were written at different stages in their civilization and the different points of view the histories represent; and Mr. Charles F. Nims, a former director of the Epigraphic Survey, contrasted the camera's lens and the artist's eye and analyzed the many different ways of seeing that have been communicated between the anonymous images of Lascaux and the remarkably similar canvases of Modigliani.

Mr. William W. Hallo of Yale University described his recent research into the royal correspondence of Larsa, prefacing his talk with reminiscences of his days as a student in the Oriental Institute. Shortly after, a most eminent archeologist, Dame Kathleen Kenyon, retired from Oxford University, lectured on prehistoric Jericho summarizing her discoveries during many seasons of field work there. Lastly, this year's series was supplemented by the film "Digging for Man's Past," which surveys the work of the German Archeological Institute in the Near East.

Tours have once again become a feature of the membership program, thanks to the tireless efforts of Mrs. Onno Buss. On April 27, a large group of members traveled to Kansas City to visit the exhibit of archeological treasures from the Peoples' Republic of China at the Nelson Gallery-Atkins Museum. Mr. Robert Loescher, of the Art Institute of Chicago, superbly guided this group through the exhibit and through the other galleries of the museum. In May, Mr. Paul Zimansky guided a members' tour through central, southern, and western Turkey during a three-week visit of the archeological sites of that historic land, sites that range from Hittite and Phrygian periods to Greek, Roman, and even Ottoman eras. Plans have been made for a similar visit to the archeological wonders of ancient Egypt in February, 1976.

Twenty-five years have brought many changes in the membership program, and hopefully some have improved its interest and variety for our members. Once again, the warm, strong support and interest of friends here and throughout the world have made this another worthwhile year for the membership program.

The Volunteer Program

Jill A. Maher

The Volunteer Program continues to grow after its successful launching and first nine years under the outstanding leadership of Mrs. John Livingood. Our seventy-five active volunteers work a minimum of three hours each week, morning or afternoon, serving as a link between the scholarly work of the Institute and the public. They act as museum docents who guide hundreds of scheduled tours each year from schools, churches, and other groups, or they serve as Suq docents in the excellent gift and book store of the Institute. This year the Suq was returned to the volunteer program under Mrs. Ezra Hurwich as chairman. Because of her great effort and dedication, the Suq will soon be able to turn over needed funds to the Research Archives and has already created an additional attraction for visitors to the Institute.

A class of twenty-three has completed the volunteer training program, a course meeting every Monday for ten weeks. Professors and graduate students of the Institute have been extremely generous in offering their time for lectures on Near Eastern history and gallery tours in the Museum. We thank the following: Ms. Judith Franke, Messrs. McGuire Gibson, Robert Braidwood, John Brinkman, Robert Biggs, Klaus Baer, Edward Wente, Harry Hoffner, Carl DeVries, Gösta Ahlström, Kevin Sykes, David Silverman, John Larson, Donald Whitcomb, and David Nasgowitz. Mrs. Mary Christopher, an active docent, presented one of the slide lectures.

The following members of the class completed their training on June 16:

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 Mrs. Gerald Glick, *Chicago*
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 Miss Nellie Stickle, *Elmhurst*
 Ms. Marilyn Underwood, *Chicago*
 Mrs. Rosalind Vorne, *Chicago*
 Mrs. Mary Ann Wayne, *Chicago*

Three classes for members given by a faculty member and advanced graduate students were scheduled this year. In October, Charles Van Siclen, Ph.D. candidate in Egyptology, lectured on topics in Egyptology. In February, David Silverman, then a Ph.D. candidate in Egyptology, taught a class in reading Egyptian hieroglyphs. Both these classes met at the traditional hour, 5:30-7:30 on Tuesday evenings, but added another performance Monday mornings, 10:00-11:30. This doubled enrollment by enabling members with evening responsibilities to attend. In the spring, Professor McGuire Gibson offered an evening class in Mesopotamian civilization for the benefit of the Nippur Excavation Fund. Next year for the members' classes, Ms. Judith Franke will lecture on Mesopotamian archeology, Mr. Donald Whitcomb will lecture on Persia, and Mr. David Nasgowitz will lecture on Syria-Palestine.

The luncheon program continues to attract groups of twenty or more who pay a fixed price for their gallery tour, a film, and lunch at the Quadrangle Club.

Special thanks are due Mrs. Charlotte Loverde, who, as Docent Chairman, was responsible for setting up the docent schedules. She also functioned as a guide herself and was invaluable in the office. Miss Muriel Cooney, Mrs. Dot Hamrin, Mrs. Ida McPherson, and Mrs. Malinda Winans also gave additional help beyond their duties as docents. The cooperation of Mrs. Cherrye Frink in the Museum Office, who takes tour reservations, has made our work easier, and we thank her.

To those members of the Oriental Institute who are not part of the Volunteer Program, we extend a warm invitation to join us.

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*Front cover:
Floor plan from the twelfth season
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