

EDITORIAL

It was with reluctance that the Council decided to bow to the pressure of mounting costs and abandon our tradition, maintained since our foundation apart from the interruption of the years of the Second World War, of publication in twice-yearly parts. The fact that this change has been foreseen for some time has not made the decision easier. We have also decided that this is the right time to make the further economy of grouping the plates together at the back of the volume. We expect that these changes will effect considerable savings, and we particularly hope that they will be found acceptable to readers. This year because of the extensive archaeological activity in Iraq and the quantities of material in hand, we are able to inaugurate the new arrangement by offering readers a volume substantially larger than usual.

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We have to record, with great regret, the death of Lord Trevelyan, K.G., G.C.M.G., the former President of the School, on 9 February 1985. An obituary notice appears on the preceding page.

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At the Annual General Meeting of the School on 6 December 1984, the Director, Dr. Michael Roaf, gave a lecture on the School's work in the Eski Mosul area entitled "Excavations at Tell Mohammed 'Arab'".

The previous summer, on 14 June 1984, Dr. Georgina Herrmann lectured on "The Nimrud Ivories in the 1980's". This year the Bonham Carter Memorial Lecture was given by Dr. Edith Porada on 12 June 1985 under the title "Monsters and Demons in Mesopotamia and neighbouring countries".

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Substantial changes in the Schools' representation in Baghdad are in progress. Dr. Michael Roaf has presented his resignation from the Directorship of the British Archaeological Expedition with effect from the end of 1985, a post which he has held since 1981. The School thanks Dr. Roaf for his services, wishes him well for the future and congratulates him on the birth of his son in December 1984.

Mr. Robert Killick has resigned from the post of Secretary-Librarian and his wife Jane from the post of Research Associate. Dr. Geoffery Summers, who has held a School Fellowship since 1982 has left to take up the position of Director of Excavations with the British Institute of Archaeology in Ankara.

The School is very sorry to see all these departures, and is only gradually filling the gaps. Dr. Jeremy Black, the Assistant Director, has been appointed Director with effect from the beginning of 1986. Mr. Warwick Ball was appointed Field Director of the Eski Mosul Excavations from 1 April 1985.

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In the field, the British Archaeological Expedition conducted the final season's excavations at Tell Mohammed 'Arab under the direction of Dr. Michael Roaf and Mr. Robert Killick, from the autumn 1984 until 20 March 1985 when the site was flooded. Work was concentrated on the Ninevite V and Middle Assyrian levels, including the completion of the excavation of the Middle Assyrian South House, and

a stratigraphic sounding to the early levels was made. Other soundings were made in the village of Babneet and in the nearby site of Qaradere.

Further work on other sites in the area was carried out by teams from the British Museum, and the Universities of Edinburgh and Manchester: at Khirbet Khatuniyeh, directed by Dr. John Curtis (levels from the Hellenistic Period to Late Assyrian times); at Tell Kharabeh Shattani, directed by Drs. Trevor Watkins and Eddie Peltenberg (Halaf and Hassuna levels); and at Tell Wadi Khatkun directed by Mr. Charles Burney (levels of 1st millennium B.C., Old Assyrian and Akkadian periods).

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At Abu Salabikh, Mr. J. N. Postgate conducted a further season of surface scraping and survey. In Syria at Tell Brak, Professor David Oates conducted the seventh season's excavations, including work in the environs of the Eye Temple, in the Agade buildings and in the Mitannian palace. For a report of earlier seasons, see the present volume, pp. 159–201.

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Several officers of the School and members of Council were among the School's visitors during the year. Professor D. J. Wiseman (Chairman) came in June 1985 as a member of a British Academy working party visiting British Schools and Institutes. Mr. George Warren (Hon. Treasurer) was able to combine a visit with a business trip. The visiting scholars for the year were Mr. J. V. Kinnier Wilson (Cambridge), and Mr. T. C. Mitchell (British Museum). Dr. Georgina Herrmann had a further visit to the Nimrud ivories, and Dr. Diana Stein came to study Nuzi seal impressions. Two fellowships were awarded by the School: to Dr. Ellen McAdam, to continue her work on prehistoric figurines; and to Mr. Michael Charles, for archaeobotanical fieldwork.

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The Hon. Secretary Mr. J. D. Hawkins asked to be relieved of his duties during a sabbatical year 1984–85, and his place was taken by Mr. C. B. F. Walker. The arrangement worked well and it was agreed to continue it on a permanent basis. Mr. Hawkins resigned the post of Hon. Secretary, which he had held since 1976, and Mr. Walker agreed to take it on. Mr. Hawkins will continue as an Editor of the Journal.

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The Council bids farewell to two of its longest serving members: to Dr. D. B. Harden, a member for 35 years, who also has the additional distinction of having been a contributor to *Iraq* volume I (1934), 51 years ago; and to Miss G. C. Talbot, former Hon. Secretary of the School. The School sends them thanks for their services and best wishes.

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The School is pleased to announce the publication of *Cuneiform Texts from Nimrud volume III: the tablets from Fort Shalmaneser*, by S. Dalley and J. N. Postgate; and of *Abu Salabikh Excavations, volume 2*, edited by J. N. Postgate. Further volumes of publication of School excavation materials are in preparation and may be expected shortly.