

## EDITORIAL

THE second part of our jubilee volume is devoted to the publication of ten of the papers read at the XIIème Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale held at the School of Oriental & African Studies in the University of London from July 1st–4th, 1963. The Rencontre, attended by more than one hundred and fifty specialists in the languages, history, art and archaeology of the ancient Near East, had as its unifying theme “Warfare in the Ancient Near East”.

Since this journal seeks to serve scholars and students of all nations we are happy to include here contributions from colleagues in six different countries. It is hoped that other papers read at the Meeting will be published later in this or other journals.

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Appropriately, a special Exhibition entitled “Layard and his successors: Assyrian Explorations and Discovery in the XIXth century” was opened in the Assyrian Basement of the British Museum to coincide with the international meeting, for the Museum has from the beginning of the nineteenth century continuously played a decisive part in the development of Assyriology.

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It is our sad task to pay tribute in an obituary article to Dr. Najî al-Aşîl, formerly Director-General of Antiquities in Iraq (1944–1958), and latterly President of the Iraq Academy; he died on February 16th, 1963. The remarkable developments and discoveries achieved both by the Iraqi Department and by many expeditions from abroad during his time of office owe much to his vision, encouragement, wise counsel, and abundant energy. Many friends and admirers will lament his death. Professor D. J. Wiseman represented the School at his funeral in Baghdad.

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The thirteenth, and perhaps the last season for some time to come at Nimrud was led during the Spring by Mr. J. J. Orchard. Despite unusual difficulties, not the least from the unprecedented flooding from the River Tigris, the season was successful, discoveries included a large doorway and entrance ascent bearing inscriptions of Esarhaddon of Assyria and further carved ivories from rooms SW 11–12 and T.10.

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The Annual General Meeting of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq will be held on November 6th, 1963 at 5 p.m. at the Royal Geographical Society in Kensington Gore, London when Professor D. J. Wiseman will lecture on “Scribes and Scripts of Ancient Assyria” in celebration of the jubilee of this Journal.