

EDITORIAL

The past year, which has seen the end of the Iraq-Iran war, has been a good one for archaeology in Iraq. Following the discovery by Iraqi archaeologists in May 1988 of a rich intramural burial of a prince below a floor in the North West Palace at Nimrud (as reported in this volume, see below, p. 259, and shown to the School's members by Dr. Lamia al-Gailani Werr at the Annual General Meeting, 1988), even more dramatic discoveries were made in 1989. In April a sealed vault was opened which contained two female skeletons and a jar with cremated remains, accompanied by an astounding wealth of gold jewellery and artefacts. Inscribed objects name the queens of Tiglath-pileser (III), Shalmaneser (V), and Sargon (II), the kings who ruled Assyria for the second half of the eighth century B.C. Then in July another tomb with more jewellery was found, apparently identified as that of the queen of Aššurnasirpal II, the founder of Kalhu (Nimrud) in the early ninth century B.C. We congratulate our Iraqi colleagues on these remarkable discoveries, and await with impatience the full publication of the results.

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Our own archaeologists have been achieving useful if less colourful results. The School's Director R. J. Matthews completed his first season of the renewed excavations at Jemdet Nasr at the end of 1988, as reported below, pp. 226 ff. He has continued his work on clay sealings and seal impressions, and has acted as Field Director to the excavations at Abu Salabikh, where Mr. Postgate conducted his 13th season this year. The School's former Assistant Director, Mr. Warwick Ball concluded his current round of excavations under the sponsorship of the School at Tell Hawa in the North Jezirah Project (see below, p. 263 f.). In the Spring of 1989 Dr. Alastair Northedge as Special Research Fellow of the School continued his excavations and survey at Samarra, and Dr. Trevor Watkins resumed the excavations at Qirmiz Dere near Tell Afar for a third season.

A new initiative reviving old links was undertaken by Dr. John Curtis, Keeper of the Department of Western Asiatic Antiquities in the British Museum, who in the Autumn 1989 began excavations on behalf of the British Museum at Nimrud (Fort Shalmaneser) and Balawat. In these excavations, continuing at the time of writing, he was assisted by the Journal's editor, Dr. Dominique Collon, and Dr. Georgina Herrman. The School's energetic Assistant Secretary Mrs. Leri Glynne Davies is also taking part in this project, and earlier, in the Spring 1989, participated in the excavations at Abu Salabikh.

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In the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq, Mr. Warwick Ball was succeeded as Assistant Director in January 1989 by Mr. Tony Wilkinson, who up to that point had been the School's Fellow for the year. He has been working on surveys in the North Jezirah Project and at Abu Salabikh and Samarra.

The Secretary-Librarian Dr. Graham Philip has been appointed Assistant Director to the British Institute of Archaeology at Amman, and has been succeeded

in September 1989 by Miss Helen MacDonald, who has been working on the North Jezirah Project and on Late Assyrian pottery from Nimrud.

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As visiting scholars for 1988/89, Dr. Trevor Watkins went to study recent work on prehistoric archaeology in Iraq, and Dr. Erica Hunter continued her study of Syriac incantation bowls in the Iraq Museum.

Among the guests of the Expedition House in Baghdad were: Dr. Andrew George (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London) with Mrs. Vanda George, to work on Cuneiform tablets, especially for his forthcoming re-edition of the Epic of Gilgamesh; Professors Elizabeth Stone (New York University) and Paul Zimansky (Boston University), to excavate at Abu Duwari (see below, p. 250), now identified as ancient Maškan-šapir; Professor David Stronach, for a second season's excavations at Nineveh.

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The School records with great sadness the death on 21 June 1989, of Dr. Edmond Sollberger, formerly Keeper of the Department of Western Asiatic Antiquities in the British Museum, and for many years member of Council and of the Executive Committee.

The Council has been pleased to appoint as Vice-Presidents our former President, Professor D. J. Wiseman, and Lady Bonham Carter, a staunch friend of the School.

The Council has been joined by Mrs. Amélie Kuhrt and Dr. Georgina Herrmann as elected members.

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At the Annual General Meeting on 24 November 1989, the lecture was given by Dr. Lamia al-Gailani Werr, under the title "Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Iraq".

The Bonham Carter Memorial Lecture on 1 June 1989 was given by Dr. Julian Reade, under the title "Hormuzd Rassam and his discoveries".

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The series *Iraq Excavation Reports* now has a second volume: R. G. Killick *et al.*, *Tell Rubeidheh, an Uruk village in the Jebel Hamrin* (Aris and Phillips, Warminster, 1988).