

EDITORIAL

Support continues to be given to the excavation of Abu Salabikh, where Mr. J. N. Postgate, Director of the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq, surveyed and cleared the surface of a wide area on the West Mound in September–November 1977. Some work was also carried out in the area east of the mound, where canal-cutting is in progress, and on a small mound to the north. Confirmation of the date of the West Mound as E.D.I has now been obtained. The season's results were reported in detail at the Annual General Meeting of the School, held on 21st February, 1978.

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British support for the Iraqi Government Jebel Hamrin Rescue Project is also provided by Mr. Postgate and his expedition working at an Ubaid period site in the area. Grants for this work were provided by the School and the British Academy.

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Guest lecturers in Baghdad included Dr. Juliet Clutton-Brock (British Museum of Natural History), and Dr. R. J. F. Burleigh (Radio-carbon Laboratory, British Museum), who gave illustrated talks at the Iraq Museum on the study of animals in archaeology and radio-carbon dating respectively. It is hoped that a version of these lectures will appear in the new house journal to be published by the Directorate of Antiquities. Dr. Clutton-Brock also lectured on behalf of the British Council in Baghdad.

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Visitors to Baghdad included Mr. Alastair Northedge (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London) to examine Abbasid architectural remains; Mr. Christopher Davey (Institute of Archaeology, University of London) to study metal-working equipment from Tell adh-Dhibai and to prepare a plan of the Negub tunnel irrigation system at Nimrud; and Mr. C. B. F. Walker (British Museum), to work on tablets from Isin in the Iraq Museum.

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The second Bonham Carter Memorial Lecture was given by Professor D. J. Wiseman at the British Academy on 22nd June, 1977. His subject, "Everyday life in an ancient Assyrian capital city", was illustrated to show Nineveh, Kalah and Aššur as centres of royal court, military and religious administration with special reference to their role in the collection of tribute and tax.

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Mr. J. N. Postgate read a paper to the conference on "Empires in the Ancient World" (18th–22nd September, 1977) organized by Dr. M. Trolle Larsen to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Assyriological Institute of the University of Copenhagen.

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The Iraqi Cultural Centre in Tottenham Court Road, London, under its Director, Dr. Naji al-Hadithi, has held many exhibitions and lectures for those interested in the study of Iraq. There are plans to publish a new journal under the title *Ur*.

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On his retirement, Professor Stuart Piggott was succeeded on the Council as representative of Edinburgh University by Dr. Trevor Watkins.

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The sad news of the sudden death of Professor Fuad Safar, the Inspector General of the Department of Antiquities of the Government of Iraq, reached us as the journal *Iraq* was going to press. His passing is a sad blow, and we have lost a friend whose concern for the recovery and interpretation of the ancient history of his own country, and for the highest standards in its exploration by archaeologists of all nations, is noted in the obituary which our President has written for inclusion in this issue.

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The same week brought news of the death of Professor Heinrich Lenzen, for many years Director of the German Archaeological Institute in Baghdad and of the excavations at Warka. His friendly cooperation throughout the days of our own School's work at Nimrud will be remembered with gratitude both by British archaeologists who participated in work with him, and by those who enjoyed his generous hospitality there.