

EDITORIAL

We record with sorrow the death of Robert Hamilton on 25th September 1995, two months before his 90th birthday. He served the School as Fellow and Secretary-Librarian for seven months from October 1948 and it was he who was responsible for setting up the School in Karradet Miriam. He took part in the excavations at Nimrud from 1948 to 1955 and was on the Council from 1954 to 1977 where his views, based on long experience in the Middle East, were always welcome. Our sympathy goes to his family.

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At the Council Meeting on 15th June 1995, Professor Oliver Gurney was elected Vice-President of the School in appreciation of his long and valuable service as a member of the Council.

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During the course of 1995, the British Academy has carried out a review of the Schools, Institutes and Sponsored Societies abroad. The final text of the report has yet to be circulated and the implications for our School will have to be considered in detail.

The views of the British Academy and the Foreign Office have remained unchanged during 1995 and the School has been unable to send any official representatives to Iraq. However, several members of the School, acting as private individuals and travelling at their own expense, attended "The International Symposium on the Looted Antiquities from Iraq during the War of 1991", which was held in Baghdad from 10th to 12th December 1994. The aim was to check the flow of stolen antiquities which were lost through looting of provincial museums in the aftermath of the Gulf War or which are currently being illicitly excavated or stolen from sites and site museums. A Code of Ethics was formulated at this Symposium, which the Council of the School subsequently formally endorsed. As a practical step in helping to identify stolen antiquities, the School has published two fascicules entitled *Lost Heritage*, listing and illustrating lost and stolen objects (details are on the back cover of this journal); a third fascicule is in preparation. At the Baghdad Symposium, the Iraqi authorities expressed their appreciation of the School's efforts in this direction. Members of the School also attended the Babylon Festival as private individuals from 22nd September to 3rd October. Between these two visits the greater part of our library in Baghdad was transferred from the Expedition house, which is suffering from an outbreak of termites.

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Our Director, Dr Roger Matthews, has completed the text of a book on the *Early Prehistory of Mesopotamia* and has worked on the preparation of the third fascicule of *Lost Heritage*. In Spring 1995 he carried out another successful season of excavation at Tell Brak and he reports on the results in this volume. He also worked as Field Director of the excavations at Çatal Hüyük in Turkey in August and September this year. He has recently been seconded by the School to the post of Acting Director of the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara from the beginning of October 1995 until the 30th September 1996. He will, however, continue to serve the School as Field Director at Tell Brak in 1996.

The Secretary-Librarian, Miss Helen McDonald, continues to work on the School's Nimrud collections which are now housed in the British Museum. She participated in the excavations at Tell Brak and is assisting in the preparation of the Brak publications. She has also helped with the despatch of some of the School's publications.

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During this financial year grants were provisionally awarded to a number of people who, for a variety of reasons, have not been able to take them up during the first half of the financial year.

Dr Andrew George received a grant to enable him to continue his fruitful collaboration with Dr Farouk Al-Rawi, which has resulted in the publication of two further articles in the present volume. Further grants have been made to assist in the publication of the School's excavations. Survey work carried out by the School has resulted in the publication of *Settlement Development in the North Jazira, Iraq*, by T. J. Wilkinson (formerly Assistant Director of the School) and D. J. Tucker; details will be found on the back cover.

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The Annual General Meeting was held on 7th December 1994. Following the meeting, Dr Andrew George lectured on "The bricks of E-sangil – back inside the Temple of Marduk at Babylon". An expanded version of his lecture is included in the present volume.

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Professor David Hawkins retired from the Editorship of Iraq at the end of 1994, after 25 years. The School is much indebted to him for his long and distinguished service. Dr Andrew George has been appointed to succeed Professor Hawkins in the joint Editorship with Dr Dominique Collon.