

## EDITORIAL

Archaeological work in Iraq has been continued by members of the School on established projects. The Director, Dr. R. A. Matthews, conducted a second season at Jemdet Nasr in the autumn 1989, reported in this volume on pp. 25 ff. Levels of the late Uruk, Jemdet Nasr and Early Dynastic I were investigated with the aim of establishing their inter-relationship. Some 180 clay sealings were found and an intact late Uruk burial was excavated. An excavation house was built at the site.

The Assistant Director, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, conducted a further field season in the North Jazira over the period September 1989 to February 1990, also reported in this volume, pp. 49 ff. This involved the excavation of a small site, Khirbet 'Aloki and a total survey coverage of some 475 sq. km. Mr. Wilkinson is preparing a monograph on the archaeological settlement systems in northern Iraq with emphasis on the North Jazira Project area, which will appear as a volume in the series *Iraq Archaeological Reports*.

Dr. Alastair Northedge conducted a further season of survey and excavation at Samarra in the spring 1990, with sondages at Qadisiya and a regional survey which produced a large number of new sites. This too is reported in the present volume, pp. 119 ff.

Substantial reports on Abu Salabikh and its environs are published in this volume: T. J. Wilkinson on Landscape Development (pp. 75 ff.); Susan Pollock on the Uruk Mound (pp. 85 ff.); and J. N. Postgate on the 1988–1989 Excavations (pp. 95 ff.). *Abu Salabikh Excavations*, vol. 4, The Ash Tip, is to be published shortly.

In Syria Professor David Oates conducted a further season of excavations at Tell Brak in the spring 1990. Akkadian and post-Akkadian buildings in Areas SS and FS were further explored.

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The Visiting Scholar for 1989/90 was Dr. Bendt Alster, who worked on Cuneiform tablets in the Iraq Museum. The School Fellow was Dr. Erica Hunter, continuing her study of Syriac incantation bowls.

Among the visitors to the Excavation House in Baghdad were the following holders of travel grants: Mr. A. Lupton, working on trade relations between Mesopotamia and the Gulf in the late Uruk and Early Dynastic periods; Lady Mallowan, to take part in the British Museum excavations at Nimrud and Balawat; Mrs. Maxwell-Hyslop, to study recently excavated Assyrian jewellery from Nimrud and Assur; Mr. J. P. Salvatore, to undertake field research on Parthian and Sassanian settlements in the vicinity of Tell Hawa. Other visitors included: Professor K. Chaudhuri, investigating Islamic sites; Dr. R. Englund, working on archaic texts from Ur and Jemdet Nasr; Professor J. Friberg, collaborating with Dr. F. al-Rawi; Dr. G. Herrmann, working on the Nimrud ivories; Mr. P. Hulin (with Mrs. Hulin), studying material in the Iraq Museum.

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The School regrets to record the death on 22 December 1989 of Lady Bonham Carter, a Vice-President and Member of Council since 1933. We have been much indebted to her generosity over the years, and her well known figure will be much missed at our meetings. An obituary notice follows this editorial.

The Hon. Anna Plowden has been elected Life Member of Council representing the family of the late Gertrude Bell. Dr. John Curtis and Mr. J. N. Postgate have been appointed to represent the British Museum and the Faculty of Oriental Studies, Cambridge University, respectively, in succession to Mr. Terence Mitchell and Mr. J. A. Kinnier Wilson.

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At the Annual General Meeting on 23 November 1989, Mr. J. N. Postgate lectured on “Re-assembling a Sumerian city: Abu Salabikh 1985–1989”.

The Summer Lecture on 21 June 1990 was given by our Director Dr. Roger Matthews on the excavations at Jemdet Nasr.

The School joined with the Arab Club of Britain to arrange a lecture, held in the British Museum on 22 March 1990, entitled “The Gold Treasure of Nimrud”. The discoveries of the three tombs at Nimrud in 1988 and 1989, with their astonishing treasures, were presented by Dr. Tariq Madhloom and Messrs. Manhal Jabbar and Muzahem Hussain.