

# IRAQ

VOLUME XXXIII · PART 1 · SPRING 1971

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# THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ

(GERTRUDE BELL MEMORIAL)

A list of the Officers of the School is printed on the inside of the back cover of this Journal.

## *Enquiries*

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## *Journal*

*IRAQ* is devoted to studies of the history, art, archaeology, religion, economic and social life of Iraq, and to a lesser degree of the neighbouring countries where they relate to it, from the earliest times down to about A.D. 1700. Texts concerning these subjects, with translations and comments will be considered; exclusively philological articles will not be accepted.

## *Contributors*

Articles must be submitted in typescript. For oriental languages, transcription into the Roman script should follow the approved system as laid down in the "Notes to Contributors" which will be sent on application. Illustrations should be submitted as clear prints of photographs or strong outline drawings in ink.

Abbreviations follow those currently accepted in the journals *Orientalia* and *Archiv für Orientforschung*.

Articles should be sent to the Editors,

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## EDITORIAL

THE Annual General Meeting of the School was held in the Rooms of the British Academy, Burlington House, Piccadilly, on Wednesday, November 11th 1970 at 5 p.m. The Vice-President, Mr. C. J. Edmonds took the Chair and announced that the President, Sir John Troutbeck was unable to be present owing to illness and that for this reason he had felt obliged to resign.

This news was received with deep regret by all, and thanks were expressed for the signal services which Sir John had rendered, not only during the time when he was H.B.M.'s Ambassador in Baghdad, but subsequently as Chairman, 1955–1965 and then as President 1966–1970. The School expressed its appreciation of these services by presenting Sir John with an engraved glass goblet, a set of 'Nimrud and its Remains' and other, lighter, reading matter.

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At the same meeting Sir Max Mallowan was elected to fill the vacant office of President, Professor D. J. Wiseman and Professor David Oates were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee respectively.

Mrs. David Oates then lectured to the School on recent developments in the study of prehistoric Mesopotamia and illustrated her talk with a series of coloured slides which gave an alluring picture of the pottery, artefacts and architecture of some of the earliest agricultural settlements in Iraq.

\* \* \*

The School is now actively engaged in excavation. The Director, Diana Helback has begun work at Umm Dabbaghiyah 30 km. west of Hatra. This prehistoric site betrays surface traces of Hassuna-Samarra and probably earlier periods of occupation and, it is hoped, may reveal evidence of the transition from the 'accramic' to the earliest periods of painted and unpainted pottery. Mrs. Helback selected this site after a survey of more than eighty sites in the vicinity of Hatra—of which no less than thirty appeared to have been prehistoric settlements. The School is grateful to the Director-General of the Department of Antiquities for granting permission for these activities.

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Concurrently, Professor David Oates has resumed work at Tell Rimah where he is directing the sixth campaign. This site, as is well known to all

readers of *Iraq*, has already produced rewarding results, particularly concerned with the urban life of northern Mesopotamia in the second and first millennia B.C. It is hoped that more written records as well as architectural remains will be recovered. Professor Oates is to be congratulated on the full and informative reports, well illustrated, with many architectural drawings, which he has regularly produced after the end of each campaign.

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We wish to draw attention to the article by Dr. Canby in this issue of *Iraq* because it comes at a time when public attention has been attracted to the subject of Assyrian dress as illustrated on the monuments. This article appropriately follows the publication by the Athlone Press in 1969 of Dr. T. A. Madhloom's book *The Chronology of Neo-Assyrian Art*, a book indispensable to all students in this field.

The two above mentioned contributions deserve study from all interested persons who have visited the magnificently displayed, and newly arranged reliefs and monuments contained within the Assyrian Sculpture Galleries of the British Museum, now reopened to the public for the first time since 1965. The artistically contrived lighting and the manner of exhibition does justice for the first time to a glorious array of carvings which are now revealed as deserving the highest rank in the history of ancient sculpture. The Keeper of the Department of Western Asiatic Antiquities and his staff deserve our thanks and congratulations no less than the Director and the Trustees of the British Museum.