

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S STUDY

The tempo of the Institute's work has picked up rapidly during the year 1955-56, and a further acceleration is anticipated. Plans were put into operation to complete within a six-year period some of the major enterprises inherited from the past. New helpers were mobilized to make this possible. The excavations in Iraq were highly rewarding. The long-awaited *Assyrian Dictionary* has begun to appear.

An ambitious new research program has been launched, intended to make more plastic than ever before the nature and meaning of ancient history. This has its focus in the study of the urban communities as the occasion and the hearth of higher civilization. A successful operation in Libya provided new insights into a later phase of ancient Near Eastern city life. New expeditions, led by newly recruited younger staff members, have been developed to tackle urbanization at its beginnings and in special areas. They will take the field in 1956-57. Seminars and special publications are to follow.

A new program of outreach to the community through the increased use of the Museum for educational purposes has been drafted and will go into operation as soon as new staff appointments can be made. Lectures, newsletters, and

receptions followed their usual course. Assistance was given to members traveling in the Near East. Our Dead Sea Scroll exhibit continues to attract attention far and near.

All this has been made possible by the interest and support of our members from the Greater Chicago area, by increases in our budget provided by the University, and by a generous gift of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. His contribution was made because he believes that the Institute has the promise of important new contributions to the study of man's cultural heritage and because of the interest you have shown in our effort. We need your interest and support to keep our work moving ahead.

CARL H. KRAELING, *Director*

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The Museum is open daily except Mondays, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 M. and from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. Admission is free.

