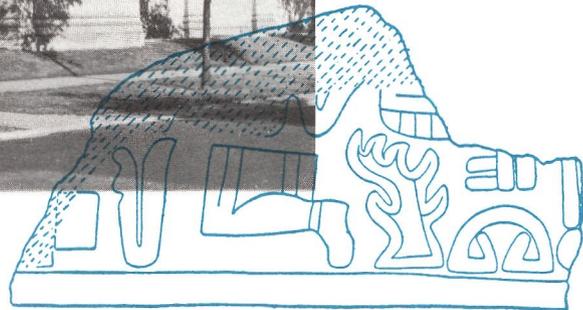


*Report
for
1956-
1957*



THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

*From
the
Director's
Study*



Scarabs

ONCE MORE IT IS A PLEASURE to greet the members and friends of the Oriental Institute and to give them a few glimpses into the work it has been doing increasingly with their help and their support.

In many respects the year 1956-57 was of crucial importance for those concerned with the Near East, partly because of the complications developing on the political scene and partly because of the growing interest in the monuments and the study of the ancient past. Needless to say, we have been deeply concerned in and affected by these developments. Happily, our position both at home and abroad has been strengthened by the competence of our staff members and by the assistance we have received from many hands.

1956-57 marked the first year in which an arrangement worked out with the Chancellor of the University of Chicago made it possible for us to draw our support proportionately from endowment income, contributions from University funds, a special gift from Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and a matching contribution from our Membership Income Fund. Indeed, the interest and support shown by our Chicago members and friends played no small part in making available to us the gift of Mr. Rockefeller. The membership, therefore, now shares significantly in all we do.

With the use of these funds, we have become increasingly active in different types of enterprises and in new areas in the field. We have been

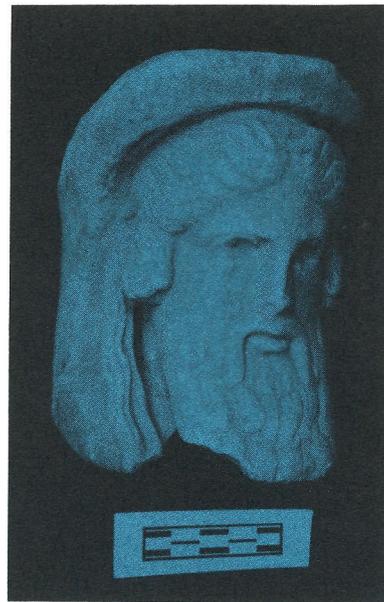
able to recruit a small number of new staff members in the junior brackets. We have entered upon an arrangement with the University Press that facilitates and hastens the publication of our books. Ways and means have been found for the exchange of visits between our staff members and the scholars of other institutions at home and abroad. We have developed educational contacts between our Museum and the schools of the Greater Chicago area. We have enriched the holdings of our Museum.

The tempo of our activity has been stepped up, and we can already foresee a still faster tempo in the coming year.

Carl H. Kraeling

CARL H. KRAELING

Director



Head of Greek Herm., Tolmeita, Libya

Work in the Field

IN SPITE OF DISTURBED political conditions, rising prices for services, scarcity of materials, and tightening controls, the Institute's work in its chosen field, the Near East, continued during the year 1956-57 almost as planned.

In Egypt the size of the Epigraphic Survey staff was cut in half by the inability of our three British artists and our British engineer to join the group. This reduced the scope of our efforts, but our American staff members, Dr. and Mrs. Hughes and Dr. and Mrs. Nims and one artist who is a resident of Egypt, remained at Chicago House even when bombs were falling on the Luxor airport. They used the quiet winter to tackle the particularly difficult job of tracing the inscriptions on the round columns in the hypostyle hall of the Temple of Ramses III at Medinet Habu and have the satisfaction of knowing that these materials, inaccessible to photography, have now been recorded.

In Iraq the Institute joined with the American Schools of Oriental Research to undertake a survey of the ancient mounds between the Tigris and Euphrates in the area south of Baghdad. The survey team was led by Dr. Robert M. Adams, Jr., of Chicago, who was assisted by Dr. Vaughn Crawford of Yale University. The work was intended to reconstruct and delineate on the map the ancient irrigation canal systems upon which the economy of the cities and towns depended and to determine from observation what could be discovered about the

R. M. Adams, Jr., on survey in Iraq



ecology of the great urban development in southern Mesopotamia in earliest times. Requiring continuous bone-shattering overland travel in jeeps and week- and month-long absences from centers of civilization, the enterprise was an epic of grit and physical endurance and has proved of great importance not only to scholarship but also to the Iraq government in its efforts to increase the present-day economic potential of the country.

The spring months of 1957 saw an Institute expedition return to Libya for further work at the Ptolemaic city site of Tolmeita in Cyrenaica. Here a villa of the early Roman period, which had been partly excavated during the spring of 1956, was completely cleared, photographed, and drawn, so that its publication can now be undertaken. The work adds effectively to our knowledge of residence construction, of the use of geometric and pictorial floor mosaics, and of the character of wall painting in this region. Simultaneously, excavation was begun in another important building located in the central part of the ancient city. This proved to have been a public bath, such as the Romans and the Byzantines after them enjoyed and used also for social and municipal purposes. It was discovered that the large lounge or grand foyer of the bath had been adorned with a number of marble statues. Several of these have been assigned to the Institute in the division of finds and will be mounted in the Institute Museum.



Excavations at Tolmeita, Libya



Excavations at Nippur, Iraq

T

HE FACT

THAT THE NEAR EAST is the Oriental Institute's laboratory does not mean that all our work is done overseas. Fortunately, and necessarily, we have a home base and are an integral part of a great educational and research organism, the University of Chicago.

At our home base, Breasted Hall (*see* Cover), our twenty-five staff members participate in the educational life of the academic community to which they belong. Here they act as teachers of students at the college and graduate levels, giving instruction in history, archeology, ancient art, and an amazing variety of oriental languages, all tools needed for proficiency and leadership in the rediscovery and interpretation of the ancient world. Classrooms, slide and study collections of original materials, and a library are on hand for their use.

At our Chicago headquarters all the objects, drawings, records, and photographs of the field expeditions are received, studied, processed, and stored—a complicated enterprise. Our inventories permit us to locate, at a moment's notice, a bead found in the excavation of a given room in an old Sumerian temple in 1935, a photograph of a painted jar from a given stratum of a mound in Iran, or the height above datum of a floor in a Hittite building in Turkey.

Using original materials produced by the excavations and the research activities of institutions the world over, we engage in research enterprises at home quite as important as those undertaken in the field. Such are the great projects of preparing the material for the first real Assyrian Dictionary, the large collection of Egyptian Coffin Texts, the

*Work
at
Home*

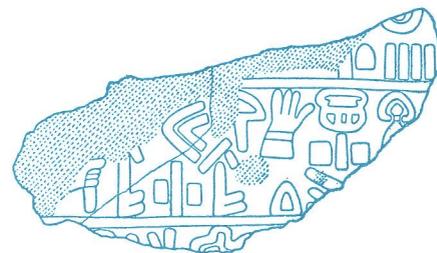
edition of the Book of the Dead. But it is not only our own projects that are served and serviced from Chicago but also those of others. We perform extensive services for those who are in the process of preparing or illustrating books. We provide services and information to scholars and educational institutions without cost and to commercial publishers for a fee.

The ultimate purpose of all our work is publication, and in this we have a high and enviable reputation, with over a hundred and fifty important volumes to our credit (ask for our catalogue). A new contract between ourselves and the University of Chicago Press once more gives us complete control over the production, pricing, and distribution of our many books. Four important volumes were issued in 1956-57, five others are in preparation, two have been reprinted, and the supply of twenty titles that were "out of stock" has been replenished by adding to the bound copies. One book by an Institute author was published this year in Arabic translation; another is being translated into Iranian. You can imagine that our Editorial Office, where all manuscripts are processed and proofread, is a beehive of activity.

In the administrative offices the far-flung threads of our enterprise and the intricate web of our relationships are held together and brought to a focal point. Here questions great and small, personal, institutional, promotional, historical, diplomatic, and international receive such attention as time may afford for the strengthening of the entire working organism, its purposes, and achievements.



Recent Institute publications



Model of Nippur foundation deposit, Institute Museum

Outreach

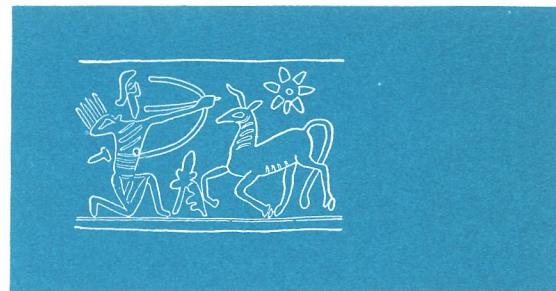
INAUGURATED WHEN DISTANCE was much more of an obstacle than it is today, the direct contact which the Oriental Institute has maintained over the years with even the most remote corners of the Near East is symbolic of one of the fundamental facets of its life—its continuous and close relationship with individuals, institutions, and agencies in many phases of the social spectrum throughout the world. The reputation for integrity and responsible action which the Institute won for itself in its outreach during the days of Professor Breasted it has happily been able to maintain through the succeeding years.

In the Near East our staff members and representatives have been and still are hospitably received everywhere. Indeed, in the past year the Institute was invited by the Development Board of the Iraq Government to undertake a study of ancient irrigation systems in the Diyala basin at its expense and in its behalf, to help determine procedures for restoring the ancient productivity of the country by new irrigation systems. This is a new venture, a venture in “applied archeology,” in which we are happy to participate. In Jordan, where we are not currently excavating, we are nonetheless involved in the affairs of the Palestine Archaeological Museum, created by Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and in the study of the Dead Sea Scroll materials through an international group of scholars. In Egypt the Ministry of Education and the Foreign Office have agreed to admit to the country for the 1957–58 season those members of our expedition who are British subjects.

In England we have for many years been working closely with the Egypt Exploration Society. Contacts are maintained in France with the national Commission des Fouilles and with the Union Internationale Académique, which has sponsored our Assyrian Dictionary abroad; in Germany, with the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut; and in Italy, with the Instituto Pontificio Biblico. In the summer of 1957 a goodly delegation of our scholars will attend the International Congress of Orientalists at Munich, thanks to the help of the membership.

At home the Institute continues to work closely with other institutions. We have had many joint expeditions during the years, with the University Museum of Philadelphia, with the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, with the American Schools of Oriental Research, and with other institutions. Individual scholars of our staff join in projects conducted in other universities, while staff members from other universities come here to work with us for long and short periods of time. Through our staff members we are represented on all the national learned societies in our field and with the councils that bring the action of national societies to high-level focus.

In Chicago our staff members participate, as occasion permits, in the life of the Art Institute, the Museum of Natural History, and such institutions as the Newberry Library. In what is said about the Institute Museum below some idea is given of our efforts to reach out to the grade and high schools of Greater Chicago.



The Institute Museum

THOUGH HIGHLY SPECIALIZED, the Institute Museum makes an important contribution to the midwestern scene as the finest collection of objects of Near Eastern art and archeology this side of the Appalachians. The Museum has continued to improve its holdings and to expand its services to the Greater Chicago community. Attendance increased from 39,190 in 1955-56 to 43,608 in 1956-57. There was a steady flow of distinguished visitors. Invited groups, such as the Evanston Study Group and the Comptrollers Association of America, were given special attention.

An important new step, long overdue, was taken with the appointment of a Docent who was available for guided tours of the Museum and through whom an initial effort was made to increase its use by schools in the Greater Chicago area. The scope of the Docent's work was necessarily limited in this first year to the more accessible of the private schools in our midst, though groups from other institutions were accommodated on equal terms upon their own application. Here are the statistics on visits to the Museum by school groups:

	<i>Grade Schools</i>	<i>High Schools</i>	<i>College and Seminary</i>	<i>Other Institutions</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Number of groups	48	35	13	70	166
Number of persons	1,634	1,389	328	1,800	5,151

These results are highly gratifying, indicating that the collections of the Museum can readily be correlated with the study of history, art, society, geography, and religion at the many levels of education. The work did point up some of the shortcomings of the Institute for this educational program, particularly in the lack of space for exhibits and project workshops for the younger of the children's groups.

During the year many new objects were added to the Museum Collections. As usual, the largest number came from the archeological expeditions of the Institute itself. Important in this connection were the new finds from Nippur, including the

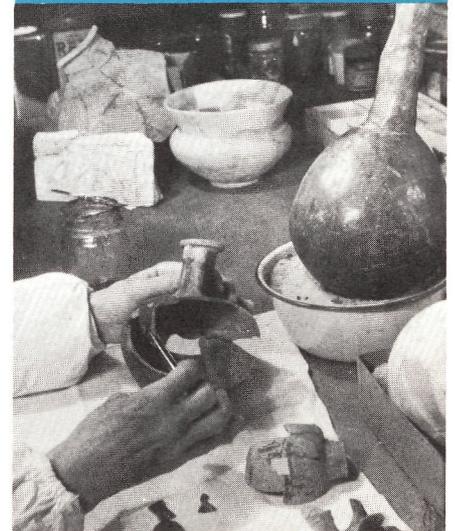
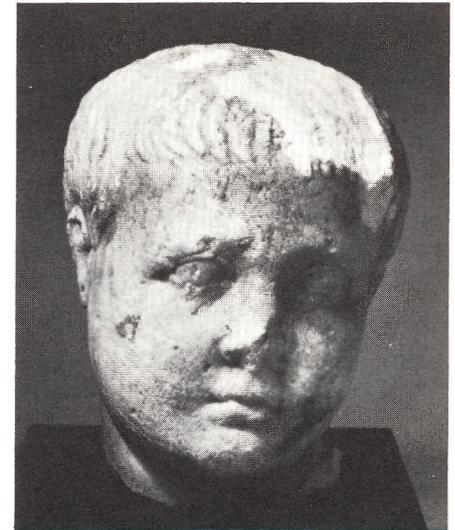
foundation deposits in bronze and stone from the Temple of Inanna built by Urnammu and Shulgi. An important collection of ancient pottery from Cyprus was obtained by exchange with the local Department of Antiquities and was exhibited in January, 1957. Valuable objects of art in bronze and gold—a gold bracelet, a gold ring, and a silver ax—came as the gift of Mrs. Chauncey Borland. With money from Membership Income the Curator, Professor Delougaz, purchased for the Museum a significant terra-cotta mold, two bronze oxen from Anatolia, a sculptured ram, a rare glazed terra-cotta statuette of a rider from Egypt, and several cylinder seals.

A special gift to the Institute from a member of its Visiting Committee made possible a study of ways and means of improving the exhibition of the Khorsabad reliefs in the Assyrian Hall. Consultation was had with the Consulting Architect of the University, and the matter is under advisement by the Visiting Committee.

In the workshops of the Museum and the Institute, as well as in the administration of the Membership program, special assistance was given by volunteer workers, Mrs. John Livingood of Hinsdale and Mrs. Theodore Tieken and Mrs. E. Lee Strohl of Chicago. Their services are greatly appreciated.

That the Museum needs to expand its facilities to serve its educational and research functions is becoming increasingly clear as more and more use of them is made. In the basement are needed, above all, installations that would provide for the study of ancient pottery materials by advanced students in archeology—a special pottery laboratory. Somehow, ways must be found to increase the general exhibition space and to provide special exhibitions and project workrooms for grade- and high-school student groups. More extensive funds for the purchase of particularly rare pieces of ancient oriental art coming to our attention through dealers are also high on the list of continuing needs. Museums must grow and move with the times, especially those of the more highly specialized type.

Roman head in marble, Baalbek, Lebanon



Assistant Preparator in Institute Museum

IN THE YEAR 1956-57 Oriental Institute membership has again grown, as the accompanying list of names indicates. Income from dues and gifts has more than kept pace, thanks to the generosity of our Members.

Lectures were held each month during the academic year, presenting the most recent discoveries in the Near Eastern field, with the usual reception following the opening lecture of the season. The lectures were consistently well attended. Of the always-popular *Newsletter*, twelve were circulated during the year in spite of a black-out in communications with the Near East during the fall of 1956.

Members received during the year the excellent reproductions of some of our Egyptian Tomb Paintings printed in Germany as well as reprints of an article dealing with the Achaemenean Gold Treasure in our Museum.

Special gifts by Members added to our photographic equipment and made possible enterprises and activities not provided for by the Institute budget; regular Membership Income was devoted to similar purposes with the approval of the Institute's Visiting Committee. The Visiting Committee, appointed by the University's Board of Trustees, consisted this past year of the following:

JOHN NUVEEN, <i>Chairman</i>	MRS. GUSTAVUS F. SWIFT, <i>Co-chairman</i>
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HOWARD GOODMAN	MRS. TIFFANY BLAKE
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RODERICK S. WEBSTER	MRS. RODERICK S. WEBSTER

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MEMBERSHIP FUND

CONDENSED STATEMENT

<i>Balance:</i> July 1, 1956.....		\$ 7,652.43
<i>Income:</i> Dues paid by Members.....	\$ 4,869.94	
Other gifts.....	28,339.38	
Fees, royalties, etc.....	289.96	
	<hr/>	
	\$33,499.28	33,499.28
Total Income.....		<hr/>
		\$41,151.71
<i>Expenditures:</i>		
Contribution to Institute budget.....	\$ 9,000.00	
Purchase of objects for Museum.....	2,370.00	
Publication of Institute monograph.....	500.00	
Building improvements.....	295.11	
Entertainment.....	124.95	
Visits by scholars from other institutions.....	91.09	
Lectures, Membership program.....	1,060.05	
Printing, mimeographing, postage.....	963.32	
Institute scholars' attendance at congresses.....	2,390.41	
Miscellaneous.....	405.62	
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Total Expenditures.....	\$17,200.55	17,200.55
<i>Balance:</i> June 30, 1957.....		<hr/>
		\$23,951.16
Gift for Restricted Purpose.....		14,969.89
		<hr/>
Operating Balance.....		\$ 8,981.27

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