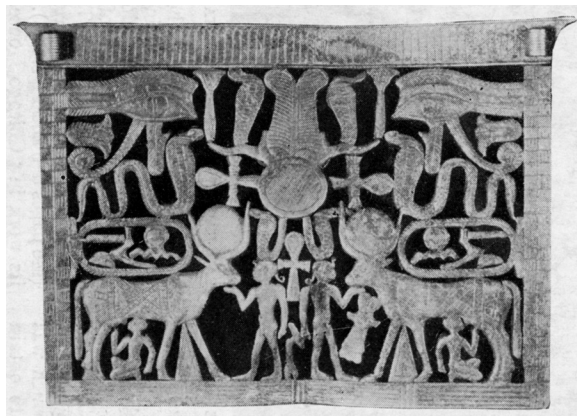


The University of Chicago

The  
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE



GOLDEN PECTORAL OF AN UNKNOWN PALESTINIAN KING  
OF ABOUT 1800 B.C., THE AGE OF THE HEBREW PATRIARCHS

The above shows the engraved back of the openwork design; the front was incrustated with semiprecious stones which have now fallen out. At right and left are figures of the Egyptian Pharaoh Amenemhet III caressing the sacred Hathor cow, and also being nourished by her. This Egyptian goddess was the "golden calf" of the Old Testament. Parts of a golden statue of this sacred cow, literally a "golden calf" like that in the Mosaic story, were found with the above and other pieces. They were buried in the tomb of the unknown Palestinian king, who must have been a vassal of the Pharaoh, and are now in the collections of the Oriental Institute.

---

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS  
CHICAGO · ILLINOIS

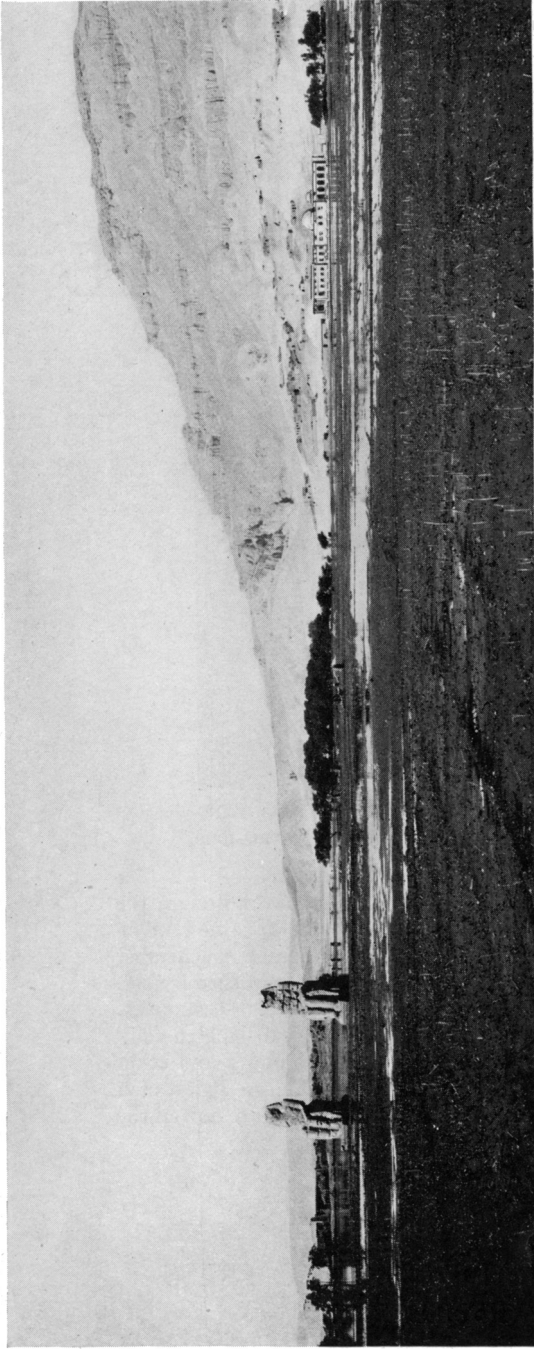


FIG. 1.—"CHICAGO HOUSE," THE EGYPTIAN HEADQUARTERS OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

The house is the domed building seen here on the western edge of the great Theban Plain at the extreme right. The cliffs behind it rise to the Sahara Desert Plateau. Immediately behind these cliffs is a basin in which is the famous royal cemetery of the pharaohs, now known to all the world as the place of Tutankhamon's tomb. The ground in front of the house was once occupied by the magnificent temple of Amenhotep III, which was quarried away by the ancient Egyptians themselves to obtain building material. The two enormous seated statues at the left adorned the front of this now vanished temple. The statues are now commonly called the "Memnon Colossi." The right-hand figure used to utter a cry every morning when touched by the first rays of the rising sun. Numerous inscriptions of ancient visitors, including even those of the Roman emperor Hadrian

himself, cover the legs of the figure. In most cases they record the visitor's pleasure at having heard the mysterious morning cry.

At the extreme left, visible between the two colossi and also on their left, are the ruins of the temple of Medinet Habu built by Ramses III (1200 B.C.). The Oriental Institute is endeavoring to save the perishing historical records inscribed in this temple (see pages 6-9 and Figs. 4-8). The Expedition is housed and does its work in "Chicago House." This headquarters building also serves as the base for the staff of the Prehistoric Survey, another of the research projects of the Oriental Institute (see page 11, Fig. 10). The living quarters are in the domed building in front, a house about 220 feet long; while the Rosenwald Library is the second, domed building in the rear, of which a larger view is given in Figure 5.

# THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

By

JAMES HENRY BREASTED

*Director*

THE Oriental Institute is a research laboratory for the investigation of the early human career, especially the transition from savagery to enlightened life; of the emergence of civilized societies; and of the Oriental background of European and American civilization. The action of the Trustees of the University of Chicago creating the Oriental Institute in the spring of 1919 was made possible by the enlightened generosity of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.; and the subsequent growth of the Institute has likewise been due largely to the same generous donor, but also to several appropriations by the General Education Board and gifts by Mr. Julius Rosenwald and others. This support has made it possible to transform the Department of Oriental Languages into an investigative body—a research group to whose ranks have been added other specialized groups of investigators having no teaching duties and appointed solely to carry on a series of related research projects in the vast field of early human development upon which modern human life has been built up. Geographically, this field is the ancient Near East, where the Institute has dispatched six expeditions and is now still maintaining five (see map, p. 4). The Institute's permanent headquarters building in Egypt is at Luxor (see Figs. 1 and 5). In Asia its headquarters building is at Armageddon in Palestine (see Fig. 12). The administrative center of the Institute in America is Haskell Oriental Museum at the University of Chicago (Fig. 17), where the original monuments and documents from the field are housed and studied and home research projects are carried on (see pp. 18–22).

The purpose of the Oriental Institute is to contribute to the understanding of human life by furnishing a fuller knowledge of the processes and stages of the long development by which we have become what we are. This purpose involves us in the task of recovering a great group of lost civilizations in the Near East where Western civilization arose.

The following brief pages can do little more than suggest the series of field operations in the Near East, by which the Oriental Institute is beginning the task of recovering the lost sources indispensable to our purpose. At the same time these pages offer some indication of the function of the American headquarters as the focus and clearing house on which all the incoming new evidences from the field converge, that they may be studied and incorporated into our new body of knowledge. The ultimate result of such researches as these should be a new account of human beginnings and a history of the origins of civilization and the earliest civilized societies, based on fuller knowledge than has been available before.

## THE FIELD OF OPERATIONS OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

FROM THE BLACK SEA TO THE UPPER NILE AND FROM THE  
MEDITERRANEAN TO THE PERSIAN GULF

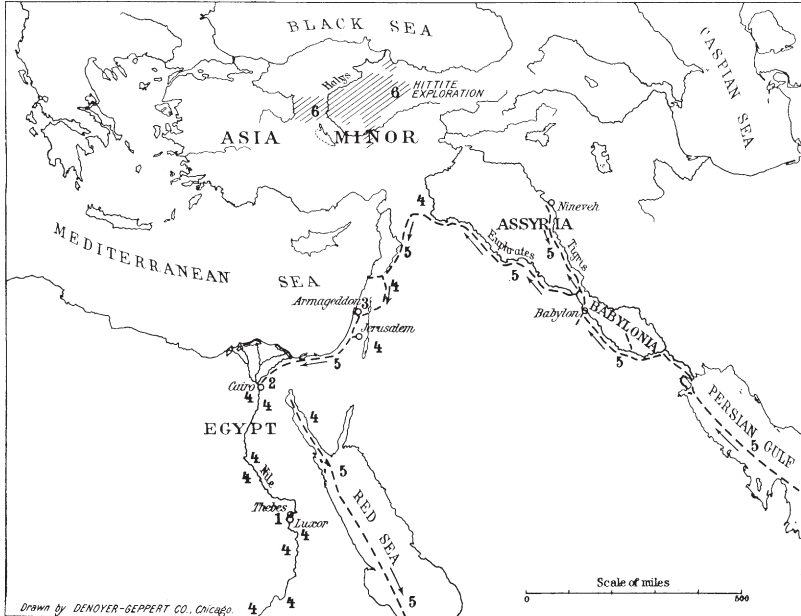


FIG. 2.—MAP SHOWING FIELD OPERATIONS OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

The figures (1-6) indicate the situation or the range of the six expeditions listed below.

1. Egyptian headquarters at Luxor (see p. 2, Fig. 1), housing the Epigraphic Expedition (see pp. 6-9) and the Prehistoric Survey (see p. 11).
2. The Coffin Text Project. Chiefly the copying of texts in the National Museum at Cairo (see p. 10).
3. Asiatic headquarters in Palestine housing the Megiddo (Armageddon) Expedition and the Prehistoric Survey (see pp. 11-15).
4. The Prehistoric Survey Expedition tracing the implements of Stone-Age man in Egypt and Western Asia (see p. 11).
5. The Mesopotamian Expedition of 1919-20. Its route is marked by a broken line (see p. 5).
6. The Hittite Expedition. The region explored is shaded (see pp. 16-17).

## A POST-WAR RECONNAISSANCE ALONG THE TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES

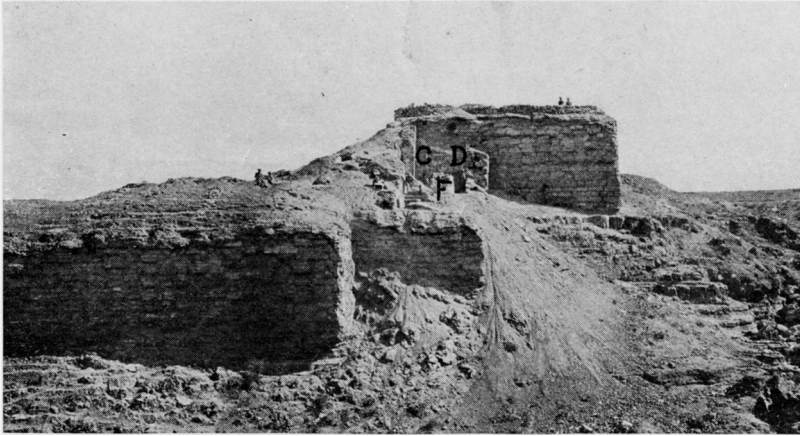


FIG. 3.—BASTION OF THE GREAT PARTHIAN FORTRESS OF DURA-EUROPOS ON THE EUPHRATES, WITH WALL PAINTINGS EXCAVATED BY THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE.

### THE MESOPOTAMIAN EXPEDITION

The first venture of the Oriental Institute, immediately after its foundation, was a preliminary survey of the Near East, beginning in Egypt and extending through Western Asia, especially Mesopotamia, with the purpose of developing plans for undertaking field work. On its hazardous return from Baghdad to Aleppo, across the Syrian Desert, in the spring of 1920 (see map, Fig. 2), the Expedition was able to excavate further and make a record of a remarkable series of ancient wall paintings first disclosed by British military digging in a vast and little known fortress on the Middle Euphrates. Here, within a massive bastion (Fig. 3), was a small temple with a holy of holies containing a shrine (F) and the paintings (chiefly on the wall C-D). The rubbish from the excavations may be seen thrown down into the valley on the right. The Expedition's work identified this lost fortress city as the ancient Dura-Europos; it is now known to the Arabs as Şalihiyeh. The extraordinary paintings, having since been destroyed by the Arabs, have survived only in the records of the Oriental Institute. The oldest of them, dating from the first century of our era, has turned out to be the sole surviving Oriental ancestry of Byzantine painting. They have been published by the Institute as the first volume of its researches.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> James Henry Breasted, *Oriental Forerunners of Byzantine Painting* (first-century wall paintings from the fortress of Dura on the Middle Euphrates), "The University of Chicago, Oriental Institute Publications" (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1924). Vol. I.

## SAVING THE TEMPLE INSCRIPTIONS OF EGYPT

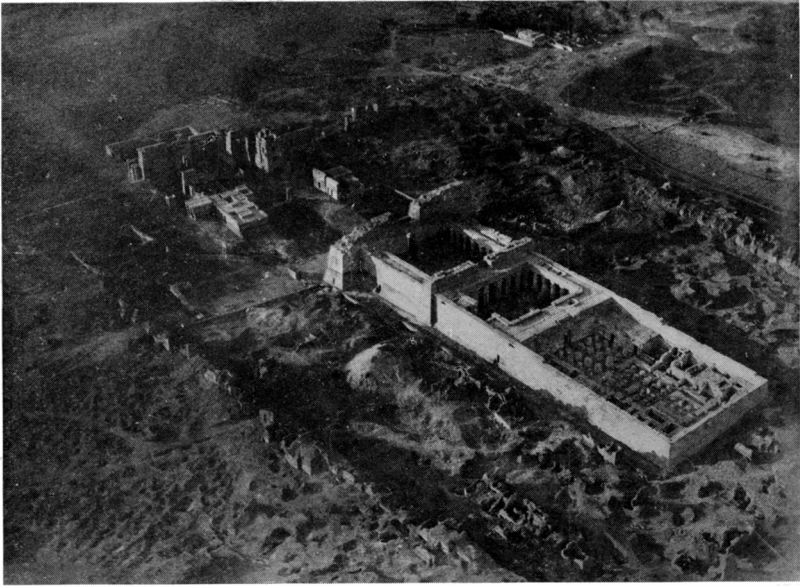


FIG. 4.—AIR VIEW OF THE GREAT TEMPLE OF MEDINET HABU AT ANCIENT THEBES, OPPOSITE MODERN LUXOR.

## THE EPIGRAPHIC EXPEDITION

The air view (Fig. 4) shows the large temple inclosure inside a spacious rectangle of dark sun-dried brick (adobe) wall, within which too are darker masses of ruins once forming the palace and offices of Ramses III. These darker ruins of the palace surround the temple proper, which is the lighter colored, long and narrow rectangle of stone masonry in the middle. The unroofed portion at the rear, showing many columns, was demolished to this extent two generations ago, and the stone blocks were carried away to build a sugar factory!

Covering the temple from one end to the other, the reliefs and inscriptions furnish a vast body of largely unstudied sources, especially important in the case of this temple, which was built just as the incoming Greek barbarians of the twelfth century B.C. were driving out the highly civilized Aegeans, who endeavored to settle in Egypt, Palestine, and Syria. One group were the Philistines of Hebrew history. The declining Egyptian Empire under Ramses III was called upon to repel these earliest European invaders of the Orient, flying before the Greeks. It is all recorded by Ramses III on this temple of Medinet Habu, where this earliest advent of Europe in historical documents is disclosed not only in writing but also in pictures. We see the invaders thrown back by the Egyptian war fleet in the earliest naval battle of which we have any representation. Under oriental conditions no such record is safe until it has been published.

## SAVING THE TEMPLE INSCRIPTIONS OF EGYPT: THE HEADQUARTERS

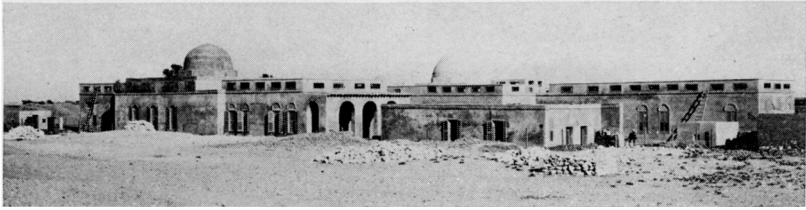


FIG. 5.—CHICAGO HOUSE: THE LIBRARY, OFFICES, AND LIVING QUARTERS OF THE EPIGRAPHIC EXPEDITION AT LUXOR.

This is the rear view of the Egyptian headquarters, called "Chicago House," shown in Figure 1. The Rosenwald Library is the domed building at the left.

The personnel of a staff possessing the experience for successfully carrying on the work of saving the temple records of Egypt must be highly varied. There must be able photographers, draftsmen, and painters, of the highest skill and long experience, besides competent architects with archaeological training. These men are not necessarily trained epigraphers and do not read the inscriptions. Finally the work requires experienced epigraphers, scholars who are acquainted with the ancient oriental languages and can read the inscriptions. When the director of the Institute and his secretary are present, this staff numbers twelve persons, a number increased by the presence of wives and others to a household of twenty people or even more at times; so that commodious living and working quarters are required.

A substantial increase in its budget, generously granted the Institute by Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., made possible the organization of such a staff and the erection of the first building in 1924. A welcome subvention by the General Education Board in 1925, supplemented by further support from Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., was granted for the purpose of enlarging this staff. A generous gift by Mr. Julius Rosenwald, of Chicago, in the spring of 1926 then made possible the enlargement of the first building to accommodate the increased staff, and at the same time permitted the erection of a library and office building behind the living quarters. Thereupon the General Education Board contributed funds for the purchase of the books and the beginning of an endowment for permanent maintenance.

This outpost of the University of Chicago has thus been developed to serve two important functions: first, the task of saving the temple inscriptions of Egypt; and second, the opportunity through its new library of furnishing young orientalists with the facilities for continuing their professional studies in the field. Heretofore, a young man attached to a field expedition has been scientifically "marooned," but the establishment of the first scientific library in Upper Egypt has ended this scientific exile. Thebes is the center of such vast ruins that this headquarters of the Oriental Institute should serve for generations as a home for study and research.

## SAVING THE TEMPLE INSCRIPTIONS OF EGYPT: THE FIELD METHODS

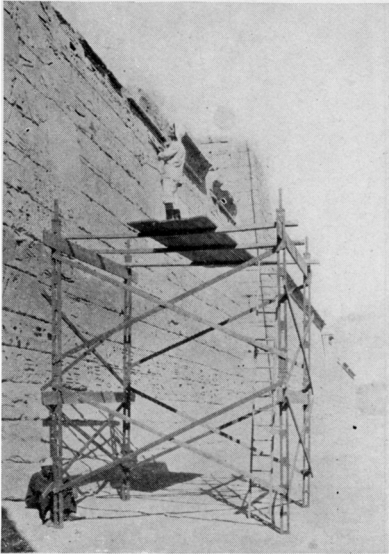


FIG. 6.—THE DRAFTSMAN ON THE SCAFFOLDING BEFORE THE TEMPLE WALL.

He is tracing on the face of an enlarged photograph the same inscription which he has before him on the original wall, producing a nearly accurate facsimile.

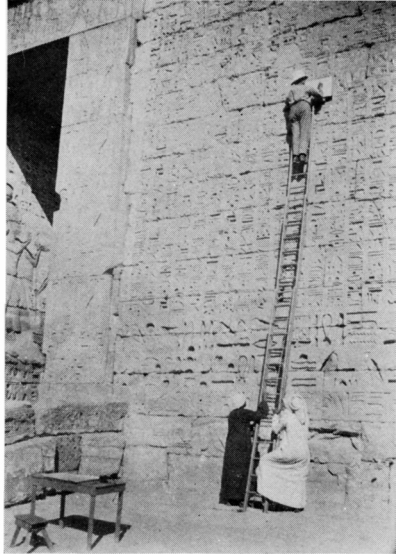


FIG. 7.—THE EPIGRAPHER PROOF-READING AND CORRECTING THE DRAFTSMAN'S INDIA-INK TRACING BEING MADE IN FIG. 6.

The epigrapher, being able to read the inscription, corrects the errors of the draftsman and produces an accurate facsimile.

The first step in the practical process of saving these inscriptions is a series of many hundreds of moderate-sized photographs. These photographs are then very much enlarged to the size of an artist's portable drawing board. The epigrapher, who can read the inscription, then adds notes for the guidance of the draftsman, penciled on a transparent paper sheet laid over the photographic enlargement. With this aid the draftsman goes to the wall (Fig. 6), where he inspects the original inscription and also does much penciling, but directly on the enlargement. After the draftsman has inked in his work on the photographic enlargement, the epigrapher then takes the ink-traced photograph to the wall and compares the draftsman's work sign by sign with the original inscription (Fig. 7). This is a kind of proofreading which is done repeatedly with the purpose of eliminating all mistakes if possible. The result is a facsimile of each inscription containing far more than a photograph can record. This facsimile combines three things: the speed and accuracy of the camera, the skill and clearness of the draftsman, and finally the reading ability of the epigrapher, who sees much which is not recorded by camera or draftsman.

When these facsimiles are published (see p. 23) and distributed among the leading libraries of the world, the temple records they contain will have been saved from destruction. It is thought that the records of the Medinet Habu temple will fill about five volumes.



SAVING THE TEMPLE INSCRIPTIONS OF EGYPT:  
AN EXAMPLE OF THE WALL RELIEFS

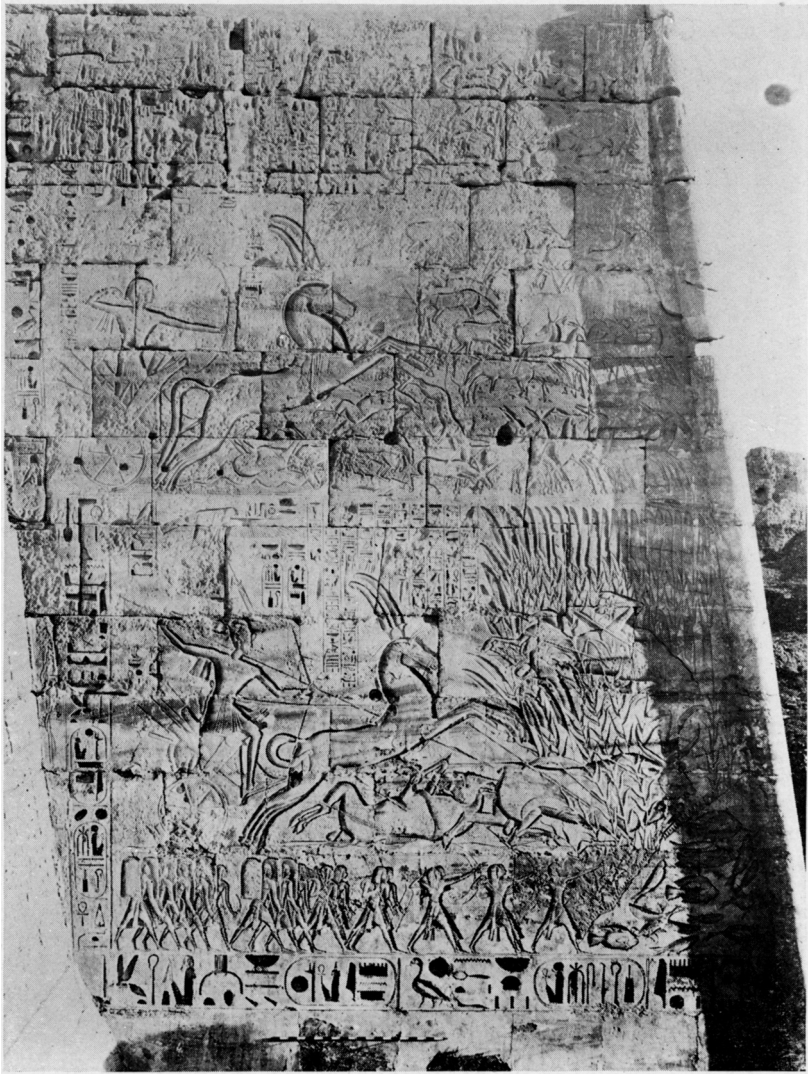


FIG. 8.—RAMSES III, AS SHOWN ON THE WALLS OF THE MEDINET HABU TEMPLE, HUNTING ANTELOPES (ABOVE) AND WILD BULLS (BELOW).

The wild-bull hunt is one of the strongest and most impressive drawings that have survived from ancient Egypt. The river shore, with its touches of landscape, is almost unique in an art so ancient. All such records will be saved by the Epigraphic Expedition.

## SAVING THE FORERUNNERS OF THE BOOK OF THE DEAD



FIG. 9.—GALLERY IN THE CAIRO MUSEUM, SHOWING THE PAINTED PLANKS OF THE ANCIENT COFFINS, SOMETIMES OVER 4000 YEARS OLD, DISMOUNTED AND SET UP FOR THE WORK OF MAKING THE HAND COPIES.

## THE COFFIN TEXTS PROJECT

Another great body of documents which have been slowly perishing is the group of writings known to modern scholars as the Coffin Texts. They are written with pen and ink directly on the inner surfaces of the wooden coffins in Egyptian burials beginning as far back as the twenty-third century B.C., or even earlier, and coming down to the eighteenth century B.C. These writings were afterward largely absorbed in the Book of the Dead, which cannot be understood without a thorough study of the Coffin Texts. They are of special interest because, while still endeavoring to hold to the primitive sensual and materialistic idea of the life hereafter, the Coffin Texts disclose the beginnings of a more enlightened belief that happiness beyond the grave will be dependent upon the ethical quality of a man's earthly life. They were produced, therefore, in the first great age of spiritual conquest, an age which carries us over from advances exclusively in the world of material things to a higher progress signifying the uplift and ennobling of human character. The Coffin Texts are also of the greatest importance for an understanding of the Egyptian language.

The difficult work of copying and editing these texts has been going on since 1922, when it was begun by Dr. Alan H. Gardiner, of London, research professor in the University of Chicago, and the present writer. It has since been continued by Dr. Gardiner with the assistance of Dr. A. de Buck, whose salary has been generously contributed by Mr. John Nicholas Brown, of Providence, Rhode Island. It will be a matter of some years more before the copying and arrangement of the Coffin Texts is completed and the published edition appears.

## FOLLOWING THE TRACES OF STONE AGE MAN IN THE EARLY ORIENT



FIG. 10.—THE SAHARA DESERT PLATEAU ON THE WEST OF LUNOR: ONE OF THE HAUNTS OF STONE AGE MAN.

### THE PREHISTORIC SURVEY

We now know that Egyptian civilization was preceded by several hundred thousand years of Stone Age savagery. Where now stretch the desolate wastes of the Sahara there were vast, well-watered forests, and the Stone Age hunters ranged far across all North Africa and deep into Asia. The desert heights which now look down upon the desolate valley cemetery of the pharaohs (Fig. 10) and the tomb of Tutenkhamon were once occupied by the flint workshops of the North African Stone Age hunters. The fragments from their flint chipping cover the surface for a long stretch above the cemetery of the pharaohs. The stone weapons and implements of these prehistoric men are likewise found widely scattered and still lying on the surface from Algiers to Egypt and the Red Sea. These hunters must eventually have descended into the Nile Valley as its once higher waters sank. Their stone implements are still found lying on the ancient Nile terraces, abandoned at a time long before the great river had begun to deposit the thirty feet or more of black soil which has since accumulated to form the present fertile floor of the Nile Valley. The traces which they left at lower levels in the Nile trough have since been covered by the rising accumulations of soil. Throughout all these prehistoric epochs North Africa was connected with Europe by land bridges at Gibraltar and through Sicily, permitting these prehistoric hunters to pass at will from Africa to Europe. They have likewise left their traces in Western Asia: in Sinai, Palestine, Syria, and the Euphrates Valley. No systematic collection and survey of these evidences in North Africa and Western Asia has ever been made. An Oriental Institute expedition began work on this task in December, 1926, under Dr. K. S. Sandford as field director.

If this survey is successful, we shall be able to trace in one vast synthesis the advance of man as he rose out of the geological ages, through the advent of civilization, to the earlier stages of the historical epoch. This synthesis would restore to us a whole series of heretofore lost stages in the history of life on our planet and give us a continuous picture where we have now a long series of disconnected episodes.

## ARMAGEDDON EXCAVATIONS



FIG. 11.—THE GREAT MOUND OF ARMAGEDDON (OR MEGIDDO), ONCE THE STRONGEST FORTRESS-CITY OF PALESTINE, COMMANDING THE MOST FAMOUS BATTLEFIELD OF THE ANCIENT WORLD.

## THE MEGIDDO EXPEDITION

Passing from Egypt to Asia, a glance at the map (p. 4) discloses the fact that Palestine, the land of the Hebrews, lies directly between the great centers of oriental civilization, that is, Egypt on the one hand and Assyria and Babylonia on the other. The point at which these powers in their struggle for supremacy very commonly met was a transverse ridge in Palestine, of which the seaward end is called Mount Carmel. Guarding the pass through this ridge is the famous fortress-city of Armageddon, or Megiddo, which is the older Hebrew form of the same word. The Plain of Megiddo has been the battlefield of the ages, and the stronghold of the city itself has been the key fortress guarding the highway between two continents. This fact was dramatically illustrated in the course of the world war. When Lord Allenby advanced from Egypt into Palestine in command of the Allied Forces, he was able to push back the Turks from one position to another until he reached the ridge of Carmel. Here, protected by the same ridge which had sheltered many ancient armies, Lord Allenby pushed his cavalry through the pass, cutting the enemy's forces in two, and won on this historic battlefield the last of the battles of Armageddon, perhaps the greatest victory of the world war.

The great mound has never been investigated beyond a few trial shafts and exploratory trenches undertaken by a German expedition over a quarter of a century ago. As a whole it still awaits systematic clearance and may be expected to yield historical monuments of the greatest importance. As far as known to us, the earliest battle fought here was the combat between the Canaanites and the Egyptian army of Thutmose III in the middle of the fifteenth century B.C. The Egyptian records describe the rich spoil of the allied Asiatic kings which Thutmose captured in the city. The golden breast ornament on the front cover belonged to such a Palestinian king. Somewhere on the slopes of the mound or on the neighboring hills must be the tombs of these same kings, containing similar art treasures.

## ARMAGEDDON EXCAVATIONS



FIG. 12.—LIVING AND WORKING QUARTERS OF THE ARMAGEDDON EXPEDITION, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE IN ASIA.

Through the generosity of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., in 1925, the Oriental Institute was able to expand its work in Asia and to undertake the systematic exploration and excavation of the mound of ancient Armageddon. The expedition, with Dr. Clarence S. Fisher as field director, arrived on the site in the autumn of 1925. The task of building the headquarters was more or less of a race with the on-coming autumn and winter rains, and members of the expedition were more than once driven from their tents by the drenching rains of October before they were able to shift to the welcome shelter of the new house. The neighboring marshes, long undrained, also exposed the expedition to attacks of malarial mosquitoes; and all the members of the expedition have, at one time or another, been laid low by these insidious enemies.

The house is built of heavy stone masonry with an American composition roofing. The partitions within are of "Sheetrock," generously contributed by the United States Gypsum Company. The long building on the far side of the court (Fig. 12), as viewed from the summit of the mound, contains the living and working quarters with library, drafting rooms, photographic dark rooms, and workshops. In the nearer buildings are kitchen and provision magazines, storage for antiquities, and a garage for three automobiles. The car at the gate is an International Truck which we owe to the generosity of Mr. Cyrus H. McCormick, Jr.

Like Chicago House at Luxor, this Asiatic headquarters of the Oriental Institute is furnishing an opportunity for the training of young orientalists. Dr. Fisher has installed his own fine library in the building, and the Institute is making some additions. The younger members of the staff will thus be able to extend their acquaintance with the published results in oriental science. Unlike Luxor, it is possible for the staff to live here all the year round. Although very hot, the warm season from April to October is free from rain and permits an uninterrupted campaign of some six months of excavation.

## ARMAGEDDON EXCAVATIONS



FIG. 13.—A CORNER OF THE EXCAVATIONS IN THE HIGHEST STRATA OF THE MOUND OF ARMAGEDDON.

Built each upon the ruins of its predecessor, any ancient city of the Orient usually rose in the form of a hill; and when such a city was destroyed for the last time by some catastrophe of war, its mound lay like a series of stratified geological deposits. Such is the present condition of the historic mound of Armageddon. In modern excavation the entire area to be cleared is carefully surveyed and laid out in a series of small squares, each of which is numbered, so that the exact position of everything discovered may be accurately marked in these squares. The particular level at which each object is found is also accurately noted. For it will be obvious that the latest remains are on the top and, as the excavation proceeds downward, each successive level is older than the one above it.

In order to remove the rubbish, it is carried by the native workmen in baskets on their heads and loaded into modern steel dump cars running on the tracks which we see in the center of the excavation (Fig. 13), where one of these cars is in process of being filled and will presently be trundled off down the track to the slope of the mound and dumped. The rubbish it contains is shot down the steep slope of the mound, away from the ancient buildings.

Far below these workmen, in stratum upon stratum, lie the streets and buildings of the older cities, without doubt containing important monuments and records which it is the object of the Oriental Institute to discover. Thousands of years ago the Stone Age men settled on this hill of Armageddon. Our excavations along the slopes have disclosed their stone implements. Above this earliest settlement will be that of the first metal-users in Palestine, some 5000 years old; and over these levels will lie the strata of successive historic ages, culminating in the wealthy city captured by Thutmose III of Egypt in the early fifteenth century B.C. The city remained in Egyptian hands for centuries and must be filled with monuments of the pharaohs, as well as with those of the great kings of Western Asia. One such monument has already been found (Fig. 14).

## ARMAGEDDON EXCAVATIONS



FIG. 14.—READING THE SHISHAK  
FRAGMENT AT ARMAGEDDON.

“And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem; and he took away the treasures of the house of Jehovah and the treasures of the king’s house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shields of gold that Solomon had made” (I Kings. 14: 25-26). It was to us an experience of no little interest when one of our Egyptian foremen brought down from one of the rubbish heaps of our predecessors at Armageddon a stone which he had noticed was inscribed with Egyptian hieroglyphs. A gray day and complete lack of sunshine made the reading difficult, but a little later an hour of sunshine made it quite clear that the ancient block bore the name of Shishak, whom the Egyptians themselves called She-shonk, who invaded Palestine and captured Jerusalem in the tenth century before Christ. Scholars had been inclined to doubt that he captured the massive fortress of Armageddon, which Shishak’s inscriptions on the temple at Karnak claim that he had taken; but here before us was the evidence which he had left on the spot—an impressive monument the approximate size of which we could restore as a great slab of stone some ten feet high and five feet wide, with a rounded top, which the Egyptian king had erected at Armageddon in the tenth century B.C. The turkey which is also solemnly contemplating the ancient stone is a household pet of the Armageddon staff.

## SCOUTING IN THE HITTITE COUNTRY OF ASIA MINOR



FIG. 15.—BOGGED IN THE LAND OF THE ANCIENT HITTITES: MR. VON DER OSTEN AND PARTY ENDEAVORING TO EXTRICATE THEIR FORD MACHINE WHILE ON THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE EXPEDITION IN THE SUMMER OF 1926.

## THE HITTITE EXPEDITION

The recent decipherment of the Hittite documents written in cuneiform on clay tablets, accomplished by Hrozny and especially by Forrer, has revealed a totally new world. It has disclosed to us the prehistoric Greeks centuries before they possessed any writing. We see them pushing over from the Greek mainland into Asia Minor—the irresistible prehistoric Greek expansion, likewise revealed to us in the records of the Medinet Habu temple (Fig. 4, p. 6). Some of the hero kings of the Homeric songs are disclosed in these cuneiform tablets as historical characters, and even the name of Troy is found in these documents for the first time in a written source. Here then is the astonishing emergence of the Trojan wars, revealed as historical events *in contemporary documents*.

Exploration and discovery in these “Hittite” regions—especially the territory within the circuit of the Halys River (see map, Fig. 2)—are still in their beginning stages. Not a single “Hittite” city has been completely and systematically excavated. A thousand questions arise on every hand, and one of the most important of these is the problem of the racial connection of the group of peoples commonly called “Hittites.” The fact that at least one of their languages is Indo-European in character connects these ancient people with our own ancestry, a discovery which invests them with peculiar interest for us.

In the summer of 1926 the Oriental Institute undertook a preliminary exploration in the “Hittite” country, with Mr. H. H. von der Osten as field director. He spent three months there, and his work has resulted in a series of interesting and important discoveries, of which the Oriental Institute is about to publish a preliminary report.



## SCOUTING IN THE HITTITE COUNTRY OF ASIA MINOR

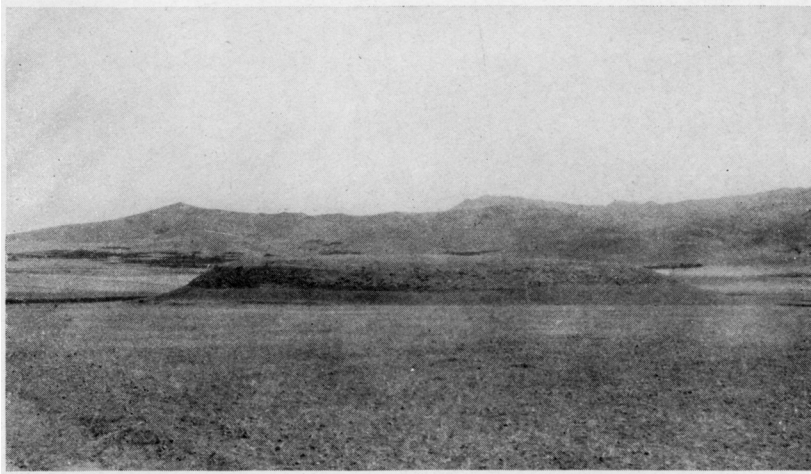


FIG. 16.—AN UNIDENTIFIED HITTITE CITY DISCOVERED BY MR. VON DER OSTEN, FIELD DIRECTOR OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE'S HITTITE EXPEDITION IN ASIA MINOR.

Among the numerous observations made by Mr. von der Osten, there are several which deserve special mention here. In the first place, he found no less than fifty-five new sites which could be identified as ancient "Hittite" settlements, towns, and cities heretofore unknown. He discovered a line of observation posts visible one from another, which served as a line of defense; and he found postern passages cut as long inclined galleries in the rocks of the "Hittite" strongholds for the rapid debouchment of troops. His discovery of a Middle Kingdom statue of nearly 2000 B.C., bearing an Egyptian inscription, which turned up in the ruins of Kürigin Kalch, is of the greatest interest and suggests intimate intercourse between the Hittites and the Egyptians some 4000 years ago. The mound shown above, which has never been touched by the excavator's spade and has been heretofore unknown to the world of science, suggests the remarkable opportunities for excavation in this new land of oriental discovery. It is to be hoped that Mr. von der Osten's explorations may be extended eastward to include the investigation of the eastern connections of the "Hittites"; and, in view of the fact that their Indo-European affinities have been demonstrated, it may be that such exploration will carry us farther back along the trail of our westward-moving ancestors.

A glance at the map (p. 4) will show that this venture into the Hittite country has carried the field operations of the Oriental Institute to the northern limit of the ancient area between the Black Sea and the Upper Nile. This line of operations discloses two gaps: one in Syria, where we know the Hittites left most important remains; the other farther east in Assyria and Babylonia, where a vast treasury of untouched monuments awaits investigation if the funds can be found. These field projects are the feeders of our home researches which are discussed in the following pages.

A RESEARCH LABORATORY FOR THE INVESTIGATION  
OF THE EARLY HUMAN CAREER



FIG. 17.—HASKELL ORIENTAL MUSEUM, THE AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE.

This building, presented to the University of Chicago as a memorial to Mr. Frederick Haskell in 1895, was shared by the Department of Oriental Languages with the Divinity School for thirty years; and it was not until the spring of 1926 that the Oriental Institute and the Department of Oriental Languages were able to take possession of their own building. Administered by a home staff of nineteen members, this American headquarters not only serves as an administrative center, but also enables the Institute to furnish all of its various projects, whether at home or in the field, with a kind of clearing house upon which all the highly varied data coming in from all sources converge. General administrative oversight of the different Institute projects is maintained by the secretary, Dr. T. G. Allen, while the collections of original materials are organized and controlled by the secretary of the Museum, Mrs. Edith W. Ware.

This home office is able to aid the projects of the Institute in a number of ways. For example, the hand copies of Coffin Texts, which are now being made by Dr. Alan H. Gardiner and Dr. A. de Buck (Fig. 9, p. 10), are forwarded to the American headquarters, where they are manifolded by a photostatic process and duplicates are furnished to the European editors without any manual labor on their part. The editorial labor involved in the publications of the Institute is likewise contributed by this home office. At the same time, a group of the most important researches of the Institute are carried on here.

## AN INDEX OF ALL THE KNOWN CUNEIFORM DOCUMENTS



FIG. 18.—AN ANCIENT BABYLONIAN CLAY TABLET ASSIGNMENT OF INCOME

A man named Nidintum-Anu, having property in the form of temple income due him monthly at ancient Erech (Warka), assigns it to another man for immediate cash. By the use of such documents as written certificates of value, the whole idea and practice of business credit arose. At the left are the seals of the three witnesses, impressed on the edge of the tablet.

### THE ASSYRIAN DICTIONARY

In studying ancient documents in a language which modern scholars are just beginning to read, the investigator inevitably meets new words which no scholar has ever seen before and which he does not understand. The immense volume of cuneiform documents has entirely outrun the ability of any *one* scholar to go through them and study the new words. The great Murray dictionary of the English language, at Oxford, has demonstrated the fact that all dictionaries must be written on the basis of "a series of *quotations* ranging from the first known occurrence of the word to the latest."

In undertaking a complete Assyrian dictionary, now so seriously needed, the Oriental Institute therefore planned from the start to make its "series of quotations" *complete*, that is, to file *every known example of a word* with the entire passage containing it. Under the direction of Dr. D. D. Luckenbill, aided by a staff made up chiefly of our own former students, the dictionary files now contain some 600,000 alphabetically organized cards bearing these quotations. The completion of the work will require a number of years; but when eventually issued as the first Babylonian-Assyrian dictionary based on all the known cuneiform documents, it will enable us to read with much greater confidence than before the vast mass of Western Asiatic sources, which reveal to us the origins of much in our own life—not least the everyday forms of business procedure, including even the whole idea of credit and written certificates of value, such as the assignment of income in the tablet above.

## THE ASSYRIAN DICTIONARY

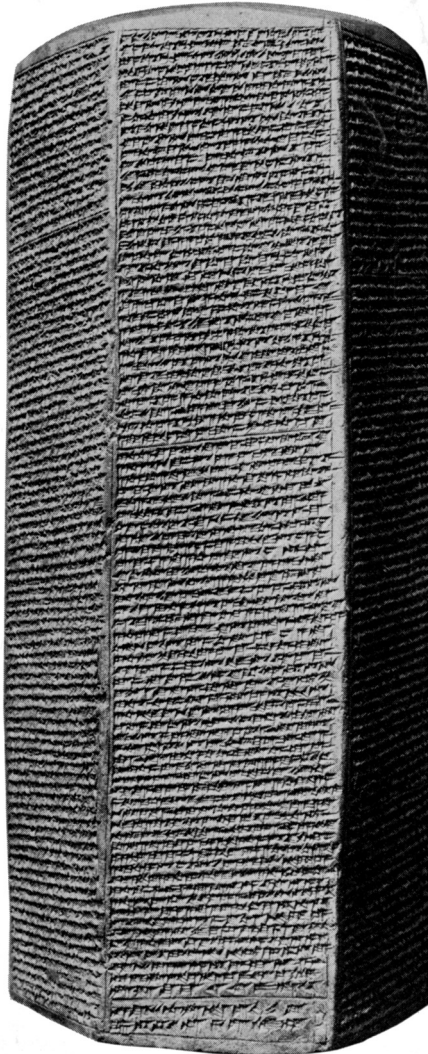


FIG. 19.—SIX-SIDED TERRA COTTA PRISM  
BEARING THE ANNALS OF SENNACHERIB.

Among his western campaigns, Sennacherib of Assyria here records also the expedition on which, according to the Old Testament narrative, he lost his army under the walls of Jerusalem. Acquired by the Institute's Mesopotamian Expedition, it has been published as Volume II in "Oriental Institute Publications" (see p. 23). All such sources have been incorporated in the new Assyrian dictionary.

## ORIENTAL ANCESTRY OF ANIMAL FABLES



*"Bimeby Brer Lion git so mad he jump in de spring headforemos"*

FIG. 20.—EXPLOITS OF "BRER RABBIT" AS ILLUSTRATED IN AN ARABIC MANUSCRIPT OF THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY OF OUR ERA.

## KALILA AND DIMNA STUDIES

Tales in which human life and relationships are shifted into the animal world for purposes of caricature or of instructive moralizing are of enormous age in the ancient Orient. They existed in Egypt as far back as the Empire (1580-1150 B.C.). In cuneiform literature of Assyrian age animal tales have also survived. These earlier oriental animal fables already display the "framework," which makes them more attractive to the hearer and lends weight to the moral lesson to be conveyed. The collection of such tales, known in its Arabic form under the title "Kalila and Dimna" (the names of two talking jackals), has come down to us from ancient India through many translations. Sir Thomas North, who made the translation of Plutarch's Lives used by Shakespeare, issued the earliest English translation of these animal stories in 1570. Quaint versions of these identical tales have also reached us through the slave markets of Africa in the Uncle Remus stories of our own South. In the summer of 1926 Dr. Martin Sprengling was commissioned by the Institute to follow up manuscripts of these tales in Europe and the Orient. His mission was very successful; and the Institute now possesses thousands of photographs, representing many thousand pages of such manuscripts, which are enabling Dr. Sprengling to study the history of this important literature and prepare a final Arabic text.

# RESEARCHES FOR ESTABLISHING A MORE ACCURATE TEXT OF THE HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT

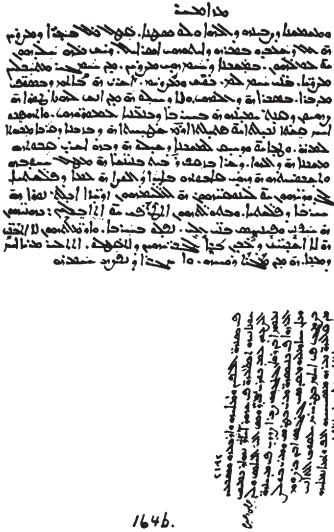


FIG. 21.—A MANUSCRIPT PAGE OF BARHEBRAEUS' COMMENTARY ON THE OLD TESTAMENT, WITH A VERTICAL DOCKET RECORDING THE IMPRISONMENT OF AN EDESSENE ECCLESIASTIC IN A.D. 1863.

FIG. 22.—FIRST PAGE OF A BEAUTIFULLY ENGRAVED GÖTTINGEN MANUSCRIPT OF BARHEBRAEUS' COMMENTARY ON THE OLD TESTAMENT, ENTITLED "STOREHOUSE OF MYSTERIES."

## THE PESHITTA PROJECT

The English translations of our Old Testament are based on Hebrew manuscripts which are known to contain many ancient errors in scribal copying. One way to correct these is to study the ancient translations of the Hebrew, e.g., into Greek or Syriac. The ancient Syriac translation is called the "Peshitta." The text of the Peshitta has never been carefully determined on the basis of all existent evidence. One valuable means of establishing the text of the Peshitta is the study of a Syriac commentary on it called the "Storehouse of Mysteries," written by Barhebraeus in the thirteenth century of our era. The manuscripts of this work, some twenty in number, are now scattered over Asia, Europe, and America. The Oriental Institute is furnishing Dr. W. C. Graham, who is in charge of these Peshitta studies, with photographs of the needed manuscripts, and it is hoped that they may contribute to a more correct Hebrew text of the Old Testament. The only two manuscripts of this work in America are in the Semitic Museum of Harvard University.

## THE ARCHIVES

Three staff members with library training are essentially aiding the Institute's researches in all directions by compiling a general encyclopedic catalogue of the available sources, facts, and data in the domains studied by the Institute. These archives, filed in the library of the Institute in Haskell Oriental Museum, should furnish a broad basis for the production of a comprehensive history of the origin, rise, and early development of civilization, which it is the ultimate purpose of the Oriental Institute to make possible.

PERSONNEL OF  
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

JAMES HENRY BREASTED, Director, The  
Oriental Institute and Haskell Oriental  
Museum

THOMAS GEORGE ALLEN, Secretary, The  
Oriental Institute

EDITH WILLIAMS WARE, Secretary, Has-  
kell Oriental Museum

JOHN MERLIN POWIS SMITH, Editor,  
*American Journal of Semitic Languages  
and Literatures*

HARRY WESLEY CARTWRIGHT

ELIZABETH STEFANSKI

MAUDE ALLEN STUNECK

MARION FLORENCE WILLIAMS

ROBERT J. BARR, Secretary to the Di-  
rector

HELEN VIRGINIA CALLAHAN, Chief Clerk

ARCHIVES

JOHANNE VINDENAS, Librarian

MONA HARROP

ASGERD V. SKJÖNSBERG

ASSYRIAN DICTIONARY

DANIEL DAVID LUCKENBILL, Editor

FREDERICK WILLIAM GEERS, Secretary

ABRAHAM BORIS KOUPERMAN

COLLABORATORS

PROFESSOR JOHN A. MAYNARD, Bryn  
Mawr College

PROFESSOR THEOPHILE J. MEEK, Uni-  
versity of Toronto

PROFESSOR SAMUEL A. B. MERCER,  
Trinity College, Toronto

PROFESSOR LEROY WATERMAN, Univer-  
sity of Michigan

COFFIN TEXTS

ALAN HENDERSON GARDINER, Research  
Professor of Egyptology, Editor

ADRIAAN DE BUCK

KALILA AND DIMNA STUDIES

MARTIN SPRENGLING, Editor

EPIGRAPHIC EXPEDITION

HAROLD HAYDEN NELSON, Field Director

WILLIAM FRANKLIN EDGERTON, Epi-  
grapher

CAROLINE RANSOM WILLIAMS, Epigrapher

JOHN ALBERT WILSON, Epigrapher

UVO HÖLSCHER, Architect

H. B. CLARK, Architect

ALFRED BOLLACHER, Draftsman

VIRGILIO CANZIANI, Draftsman

JOHN HARTMAN, Photographer

PHOEBE G. BYLES, Librarian

MEGIDDO EXPEDITION

CLARENCE STANLEY FISHER, Field Di-  
rector

EDWARD L. DELOACH

CLARENCE S. FISHER, JR.

JOHN P. KELLOGG

MR. LIND

MISS WOODLEY

HITTITE EXPLORATION

H. H. VON DER OSTEN, Field Director

PREHISTORIC SURVEY

K. S. SANDFORD, Field Director

W. J. ARKELL

PESHITTA STUDIES

WILLIAM CREIGHTON GRAHAM, Editor