

SYRIAN EXPEDITION

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO





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ORIENTAL INSTITUTE BULLETIN NUMBER ONE
NINETEEN THIRTY-SEVEN

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*American Consulate General
Beyrouth, le 26 Avril 1937*

Mon cher Comte de Martel,

Pendant mon congé aux Etats-Unis j'ai eu le plaisir d'être invité, le 14 Mars, à faire un discours à l'occasion de l'inauguration de la section syrienne du musée de l'Institut Oriental de l'Université de Chicago. Les objets exposés faisaient partie de ceux trouvés par l'expédition hittite Syrienne à Tel-Tainat, près d'Antioche, dans le Sandjak. A cette occasion, le Directeur de l'Institut Oriental, M. John A. Wilson, m'a exprimé le désir de faire part à Votre Excellence, dès mon retour à Beyrouth, de la gratitude de l'Institut et du monde savant pour l'amabilité, la compréhension et la considération que le Gouvernement Mandataire en Syrie et au Liban n'a pas cessé d'y accorder aux fouilles archéologiques. En particulier, la façon savante et sympathique avec laquelle M. Seyrig dirige le Service des Antiquités a été hautement apprécié par tous ceux qui avaient eu des relations avec lui.

Je suis également heureux de faire savoir à Votre Excellence que l'Institut Oriental trouve que le résultat des travaux faits jusqu'ici à Tel-Tainat y justifie la continuation des fouilles sous la direction de M. C. W. McEwan.

Comme l'Institut Oriental compte consacrer son prochain bulletin spécialement aux résultats de ses travaux en Syrie, il m'a demandé de vous prier de permettre que cette brochure soit dédiée à Votre Excellence.

Veuillez agréer, mon cher Ambassadeur, avec l'expression de mes sentiments cordiaux, l'assurance de ma plus haute considération.

(Signed) THEODORE MARRINER

Son Excellence

M. le Comte Damien de Martel,

*Haut Commissaire de la République Française,
Beyrouth.*

THE HONORABLE THEODORE MARRINER

Theodore Marriner, after obtaining a Doctorate in English at Harvard, entered the diplomatic service of the United States in 1918. He has been stationed at Stockholm, Bucharest, and other European capitals, and has represented his country on various important international commissions. He has been Chief of the Division of Western European Affairs at the State Department in Washington and Counselor of the Embassy in Paris. To all Americans in the Near East it is a source of satisfaction that he is now Consul General in Beirut. Both officially and personally, he has been a very good friend to the Institute's Syrian Expedition.

From a recent communication from Mr. Marriner:

"It was my good fortune to be in Chicago at the opening of the Exhibition of the objects from Syria. It was peculiarly interesting to me to see the examples of Hittite sculpture, which I had seen in the process of being excavated when I visited Tell Tainat last year, so admirably displayed and interestingly described. I have a new appreciation of the understanding collaboration between field archeology and museum work. I extend my best wishes to the Oriental Institute, and wish it continued success in its efforts to reconstruct the early history of man."



HAUT COMMISSARIAT
DE LA
REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
EN SYRIE ET AU LIBAN

118

Beyrouth, le 4 Mai 1937

Monsieur le Consul Général,

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception et de vous remercier de la communication que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser au sujet de l'inauguration de la section syrienne du musée de l'Institut Oriental de l'Université de Chicago.

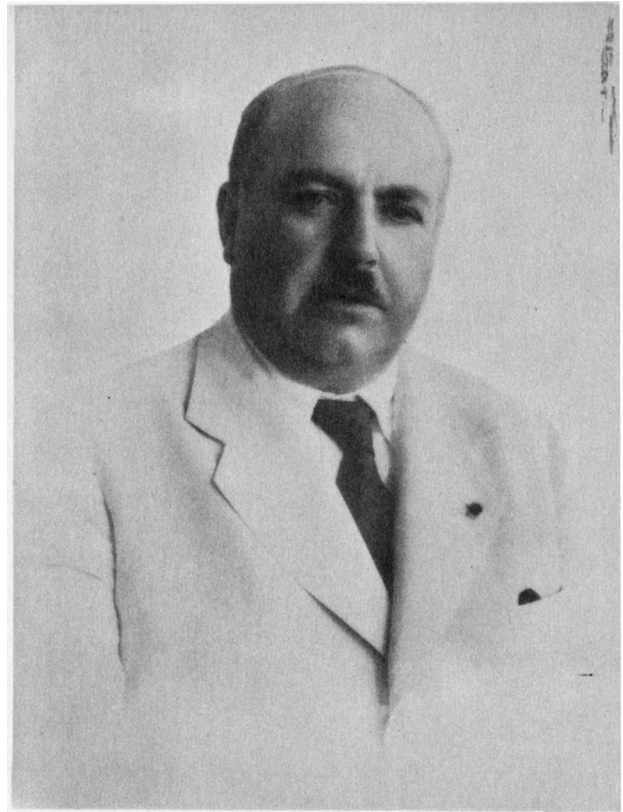
Il m'a été particulièrement agréable de connaître l'appréciation très bienveillante qu'avait portée sur les autorités mandataires et notamment sur le directeur du service intéressé M. John A. Wilson, directeur de l'Institut Oriental. J'ai été également très heureux de la décision prise par ce corps savant de continuer les fouilles déjà entreprises à Tel-Tainat; j'espère que ses efforts persévérants seront récompensés par les résultats des nouveaux travaux auxquels, je le sais, vous vous intéressez personnellement et dont vous suivez sur place le développement avec une sympathie agissante. Je puis vous assurer que, de leur côté, mes services continueront, comme ils l'ont fait par le passé, à prêter tout leur appui aux savants américains pendant leur mission dans les Etats sous mandat.

Enfin, je vous serais reconnaissant de remercier M. Wilson d'avoir bien voulu me dédier le prochain bulletin de l'Institut Oriental de Chicago consacré aux résultats des fouilles de Syrie et l'assurer que j'ai été très sensible à cette délicate attention.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Consul Général, les assurances de ma haute considération.

(Signed) D. DE MARTEL

Monsieur Theodore Marriner,
Consul Général des Etats-Unis d'Amérique,
Beyrouth



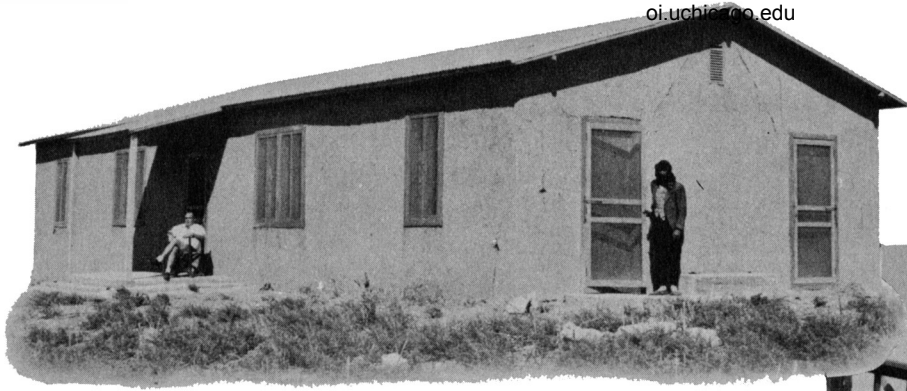
THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO DEDICATES
THIS BULLETIN TO HIS EXCELLENCY
THE FRENCH HIGH COMMISSIONER
IN SYRIA COUNT DAMIEN DE MARTEL

Count Damien de Martel, a graduate of the Ecole des Sciences Politiques, has been a member of the French diplomatic service since 1901. He has been High Commissioner in Siberia and in the Caucasus, Chief of Legation in Riga, Minister to Peking, and Ambassador to Tokyo. Since 1933 he has been High Commissioner to Syria and the Lebanon. The present flourishing condition of the mandated territory reflects the energy and tact of Count de Martel. Foreign benevolent institutions and scientific missions have good cause to be grateful for the enlightened and sympathetic attitude of H. E. the High Commissioner.

North Syria is the happy hunting ground for the archeologist. Better climate, more stirring scenery, more agreeable native workers, do not exist in all the Near East. But more important to the archeologist is the opportunity. The North Syrian plain is studded with mounds in rich profusion, each the relic of ancient cities which once flourished at this cross-roads of the ancient world. For it was here that the caravans of India, Persia, and Mesopotamia met the merchants of Europe and Asia Minor on the one hand, and those of Egypt and Palestine on the other. The evidence of this interplay of influences is a delight for the archeologist to isolate and identify. And yet North Syria has seen so little organized and consistent archeological work that an expedition here experiences the added allure of pioneering in new fields.

An important factor in the success of the Oriental Institute's Syrian Expedition has been the intelligent and courteous co-operation of the Mandatory Authority. To Count de Martel, the High Commissioner, to M. Pierre Durieux, his Delegate in the Sanjak of Alexandretta, and to M. Henri Seyrig, the Director of the Department of Antiquities, the Oriental Institute expresses its deepest gratitude for the sympathetic spirit and the active aid with which they have fostered scientific enterprise in the Levant States under French Mandate.

JOHN A. WILSON
Director, The Oriental Institute



AN OUTPOST OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO IN NORTH SYRIA:
THE EXPEDITION HOUSE, BUILT OF MUD BRICK
IN THE TRADITIONAL MANNER OF THE COUNTRY



HISTORY'S HORIZON MOVES BACK 3000 YEARS

In the seventeenth century the Irish Archbishop Ussher published his *Annales Veteris Testamenti*. After this scheme of biblical chronology had found its way into the margins of the Authorized Version of the Bible, the date 4004 B.C. for the creation of the world and of man gradually acquired in the minds of many the same sanctity and authority as the book of Genesis itself. About a hundred years ago, the historical books of the Old Testament and the "profane" writings of the Greek historian Herodotus constituted practically the entire evidence for the story of human achievement before the Golden Age of Pericles. No wonder it was thought that "everything began with the Greeks!"

Quite possibly future historians will rank the nineteenth century's recovery of our ancient Near Eastern heritage as highly as the revolutionary discoveries in the natural sciences. As intellectual *tours de force*, Champollion's decipherment of the Egyptian hieroglyphics and Rawlinson's brilliant work on Old Persian are hardly surpassed. The latter's edition of the great Behistun inscription in 1846, making available the vast field of cuneiform literature, was no less striking in its implications than the publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species* thirteen years later.

At the same time the fascinating possibilities opened up by the philologists were being partially realized by excavation in Mesopotamia and Egypt. Aside from work in Bible lands, the excavation of Troy by Schliemann, a romantic German amateur who named his two sons Agamemnon and Menelaos, doubtless had the widest popular appeal. A great part of the splendid monuments in the British Museum in London and the Louvre in Paris unfortunately date from early "digs" which were, admittedly, unscientific treasure hunts. Methodical field archeology, as we understand it today, was initiated by Sir Flinders Petrie in the 1890's.

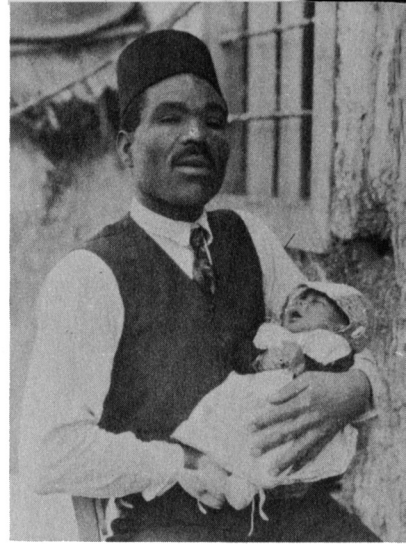
Since the World War there has been a great increase of archeological activity in the Near East; and, more important, the *quality* of the work has been enormously improved. While this improvement has been, of course, international, Americans may take justifiable pride in the fact that the influence of the Oriental Institute has been very great indeed.¹

The expeditions of the Institute are shown on the map within the covers of this booklet. The map also makes clear the location of North Syria as the meeting point of trade routes from Europe, Asia, and Africa. Strategically it was the center of the ancient world. It is therefore understandable that when King Antigonos decided to build a capital city in the fourth century B.C., he chose to locate it in the Antioch region—the central point of the vast Seleucid empire, equidistant from its borders.

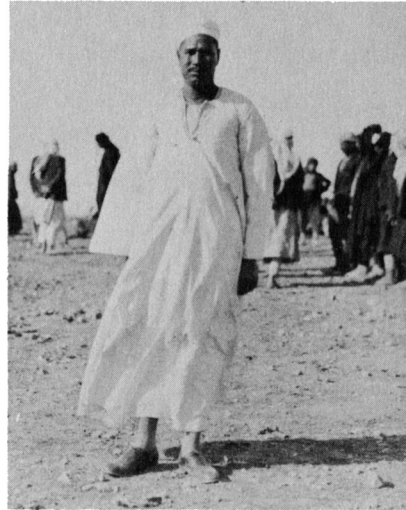
One of the Institute's projects is a North Syrian expedition, which has been working since 1933 on three sites: Chatal Hüyük, Tell Judeideh, and Tell Tainat. These mounds, which the Arabs call *tells*, lie in a great marshy plain around the Lake of Antioch. The scattered miserable villages in this plain today, with their incredible reed hovels, scourged by malaria and cursed with a medieval system of land tenure, are in striking contrast to the numerous stately city-mounds—the material remains of ancient civilizations—which are characteristic of the present landscape.²

¹ An account of the background and history of the Institute is given by James H. Breasted in *The Oriental Institute* (Volume XII of "The University of Chicago Survey").

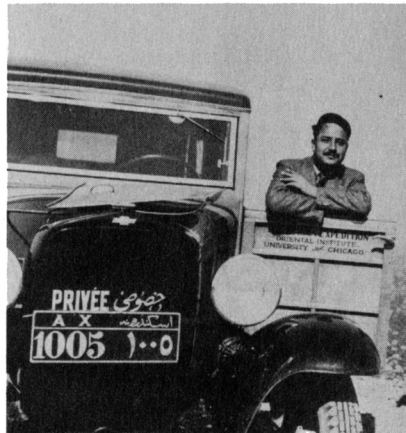
² Fully described in "Oriental Institute Publication XLVIII," *Mounds in the Plain of Antioch: An Archeological Survey*.



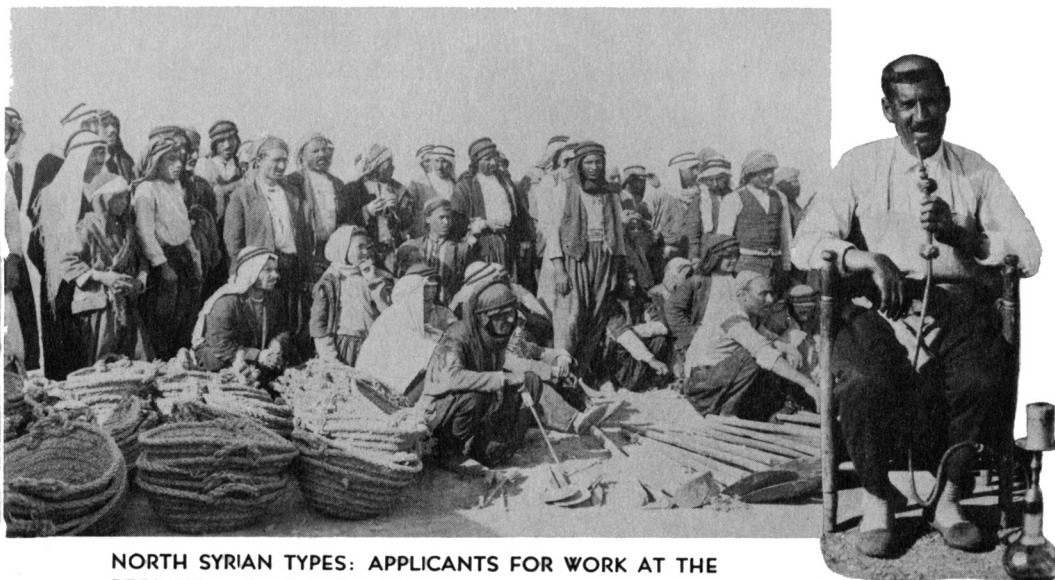
FOREMAN ABDULLAH



MAJOR-DOMO AHMET



CHAUFFEUR HUSSEIN



NORTH SYRIAN TYPES: APPLICANTS FOR WORK AT THE BEGINNING OF A FIELD SEASON

CARPENTER SHUKRY



DIGGING UP THE PAST



MAKING THE PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Upon the more sophisticated “noncommissioned officers” of the native understaff, whose pictures appear on the preceding page, the Expedition is largely dependent for the efficiency of its operations. They are devoted to the interests of their “Kumpaniya.”

The Mohammedan peasants of North Syria, be they Arab, Turkoman, Circassian, or Turk, are fairly reliable, moderately industrious, and thoroughly likable. They are agriculturists, accustomed to pick and shovel work, and quickly develop a high degree of manual dexterity in the specialized digging required in archeological excavation. In this ability they differ from the Beduin of Iraq, many of whom have never seen a pick. But few, probably none of them, understand *why* these American *Effendis* come so far (for it is said that America is farther than Constantinople, by Allah!) and enthusiastically engage in such apparently senseless activity. From the native point of view, it is patently absurd to be so interested in the fragments of a shattered pot, when one can buy nice new green-glazed jars in the local *suk*. Why should this *Effendi* photograph, and another one draw, the four walls of a mud brick house which collapsed only Allah knows how many years ago? But since these harmlessly mad infidel gentlemen are willing to pay excellent wages, as much as thirty-five cents a day, why question the providence of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate?



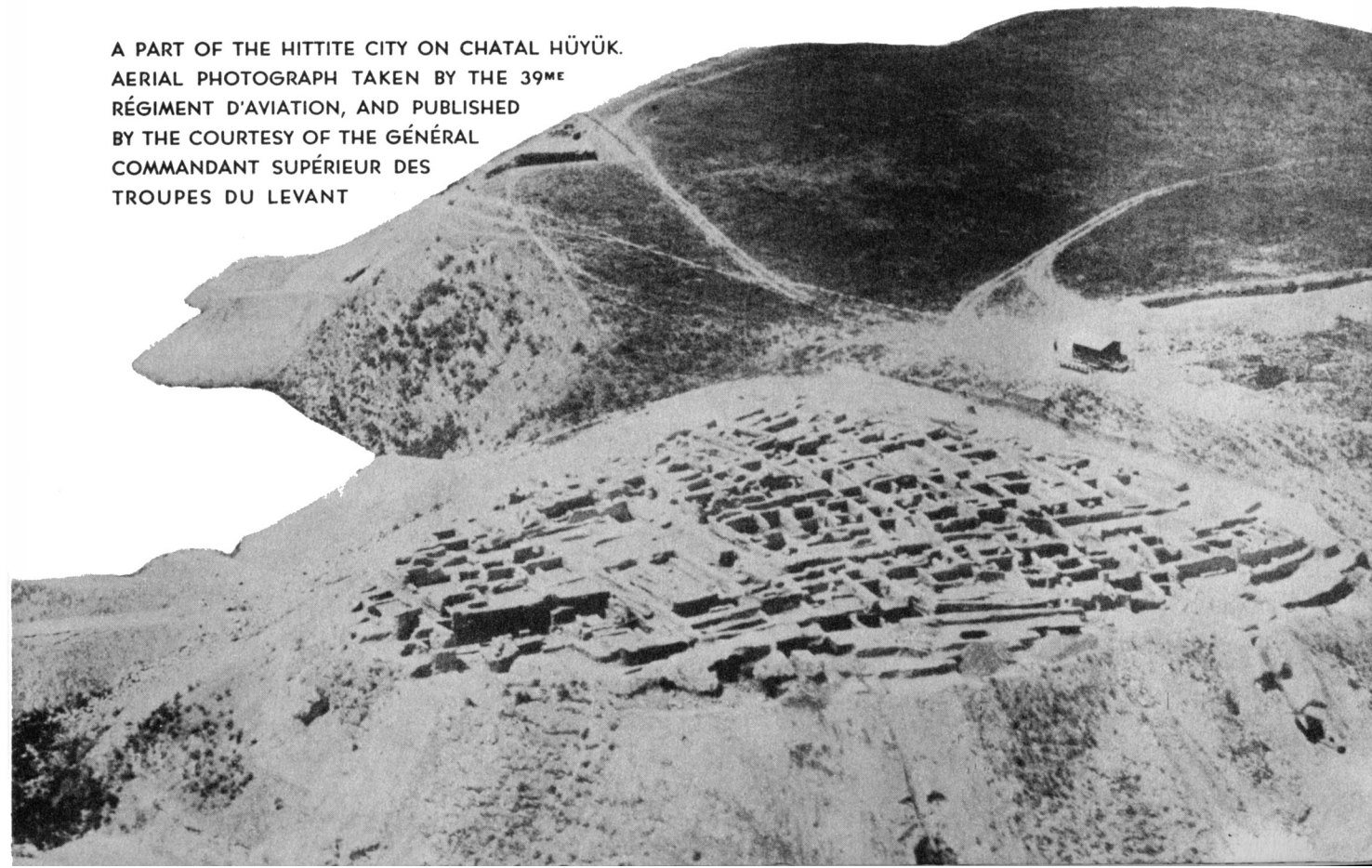
VILLAGE WOMEN CARRYING EARTH TO THE DUMP CARS

A MOUND OF MANY CITIES

In the Near East, by far the commonest building material is sun-dried mud brick (adobe). Mud brick walls must be thick: when they collapse—every thirty years or so, in Syria—the amount of debris is very great, and the rooms are filled to a considerable height. Since the bricks cannot be used twice, and it is expensive to carry away the rubbish, the simplest thing to do is to level off the ruins and build again on top of them. This has the further advantage of lifting the new house up out of the damp. In Western Asia almost every village stands on a mound of its own making, often more than a hundred feet above the surrounding plain. This entire height is made up of the ruins of successive occupations, representing perhaps five thousand years of elapsed time.

The amount of information to be obtained in any given stratum depends upon the circumstances under which the people of the period abandoned their dwellings and public buildings. Archeologists may be forgiven if they revel in catastrophes which overwhelmed unsuspecting populations. Would that every ancient site had had its Vesuvius! Next to a natural cataclysm, there is nothing so good as a city exposed to the depredations of a brutal and licentious soldiery. Murder, rapine, fire, terror, followed by the hasty departure of an army far from its base, will invariably leave things in considerable disorder, but in surprising profusion. Archeologically speaking, the worst fate that can befall a city is the peaceful withdrawal of its people, carrying with them their goods and chattels.

A PART OF THE HITTITE CITY ON CHATAL HÜYÜK.
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY THE 39^{ME}
RÉGIMENT D'AVIATION, AND PUBLISHED
BY THE COURTESY OF THE GÉNÉRAL
COMMANDANT SUPÉRIEUR DES
TROUPES DU LEVANT





PERIOD I

600-300 A.D.

The level of an early Christian church, with its chapel and close. Byzantine coins and bronze crosses of the priests.



PERIOD II

300 A.D.-64 B.C.

A village partly contemporary with St. Paul and early Christian missionary activity in Antioch. Coins of the Caesars and Roman lamps.



PERIOD III

64 B.C.-500 B.C.

An occupation of the period of the Persian Empire, showing also traces of the Hellenization of the Orient under Alexander the Great.



PERIOD IV

500 B.C.-1000 B.C.

Layers of the Syrian Hittite kingdom, contemporary with the later Assyrian Empire and the Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar. Hittite hieroglyphs.



PERIOD V

1000 B.C.-1200 B.C.

Ceramic traces of the "Peoples of the Sea," some of whom are known as the Philistines, others as the Achaeans who sacked Troy.



PERIOD VI

1200 B.C.-1600 B.C.

A period of ethnic movements and extensive pottery importation. Infiltration of *Habiru* into Palestine and Joshua's capture of Jericho.



PERIOD VII

1600 B.C.-1800 B.C.

Evidence of cultural relations with the east, attested by cylinder seals of the Hurrian peoples of northern Mesopotamia, identified as the Horites of the Bible.



PERIOD VIII

1800 B.C.-2000 B.C.

Small painted bowls related to the pottery of the Hyksos or "Shepherd Kings" of Egypt. Time of the Patriarchs.



PERIOD IX

2000 B.C.-2400 B.C.

The beginning of a series of clay figurines of the "Mother Goddess" type, which are remarkable for their intentional grotesqueness.



PERIOD X

2400 B.C.-2600 B.C.

An occupation by the makers of goblets with fork-scratched decoration: an evidence of trade with northern Mesopotamia and central Syria.



PERIOD XI

2600 B.C.-3100 B.C.

Importation of cylinder seals from Abraham's city, Ur of the Chaldees; and fine red and black polished pottery from Asia Minor and the Balkans.



PERIOD XII

3100 B.C.-3400 B.C.

Earliest general use of metal, rapid mastery of the technique of casting figures in copper. Decline of flint and bone tools.



PERIOD XIII

3400 B.C.-3800 B.C.

Painted hand-made pottery as fine as any subsequent painted style. Flint and bone implements, with earliest traces of copper.



PERIOD XIV

3800 B.C.-4500 B.C.

The earliest Syrian village life, with the same material culture as found in near-by caves. Hand-made pottery, bone and flint tools, no traces of metal.



VIRGIN SOIL: SIX FEET UNDER THE PRESENT WATER LEVEL.

Here, layer by layer, are five thousand years of history. Each "period," i.e., the duration of one particular culture, may contain several levels of occupation. The sketches show objects which are typical for their period, and occur only sporadically, if at all, in any other period. Thus by a careful check of the objects from a given floor, the archeologist can establish their sequence, just as one might differentiate between the "buggy wheel" and the "automobile tire" periods in American history by digging through a city dump. The step-trench shown above enabled the Institute's Syrian Expedition to establish, for the first time, a complete chronology for North Syria.

"IMMOVABLE, INFIX'D, AND FROZEN, ROUND PERIODS OF TIME"



ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

RECOVERING THE RAW MATERIAL OF HISTORY

An archeologist is not a slippered antiquarian, nor is he an “intrepid” explorer. He is a researcher trying each season to refine his technique and to advance a little closer to the unobtainable goal of universal knowledge which alone would make the perfect investigator of antiquity. He is aware of the great responsibility resting on the disturber of an ancient site. For digging a stratified mound is essentially a work of intelligent destruction: each successive level must be torn out in order to examine the one below it. If the architecture of each stratum is not fully recorded with photographs and measured drawings, and the position of every single object with its archeological context is not noted both horizontally and vertically—then that evidence is gone forever. For the historical value of an object depends not so much on the object itself, as upon its associations. To view ancient artifacts as rather exotic *objets d'art* which would look nice in a museum case is a sad travesty of science. An example of ancient artistry which is brought to light by ignorant natives in a clandestine dig and is sold to a museum by an antiquities dealer who cannot know the circumstances of its finding and who may wilfully invent misleading misinformation, may retain its aesthetic appeal, but as a historical document it is worthless. Nor can a field archeologist follow his own ideas of the relative importance of historical periods. Even though his own interests lie in the prehistoric field, he must conscientiously record the overlying strata before removing them. He is presumptuous indeed who rips a page from the great book of human history.

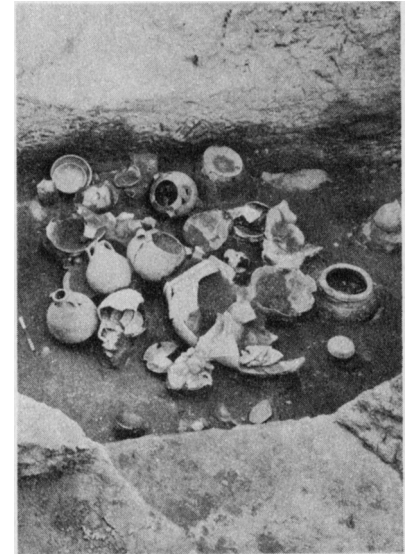
Chatal Hüyük is a large mound containing more than a million cubic yards of cultural debris. It was first supposed that this was the site of Kunulua, the capital of the Hittite

kingdom of Hattina, and identical with the biblical Calneh. Extensive work here by the Syrian Expedition proved this supposition to be erroneous. This was not the capital, but a prosperous commercial city of Hattina, which lay close to the junction of the great trade routes. Here the Expedition recovered thousands of objects, from which a reconstruction of the material culture of the first millennium B.C. can be made. Most of these artifacts were naturally of local manufacture, but numerous pieces imported from Greece, Anatolia, Cyprus, Palestine, Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Persia vividly illustrate the extent of cultural interaction in the ancient world. As careful excavation reveals the ground plan of the ruined dwellings, it is possible to deduce the functions of the various rooms. This one here, for example, with a water jar in the corner, a large vessel full of carbonized grain, and a smaller pot containing the bones of a fowl, with the smoke blackened hearth yonder, was surely the kitchen-dining-room.

It is three thousand years since Uriah the Hittite left perhaps this very village to seek his fortune in the service of King David, and only a little less since the surging, clamorous life in its streets ceased forever. But one who strolls among its ghostly walls in the lovely Syrian night can easily re-create for himself much of the ancient scene. The sudden barking of pariah dogs in the nearby settlement, momentarily hushing the camel bells of the caravan and the soft cries of the shepherds around the base of the great mound, might be warning of the approach of an Assyrian column.



SURVEYING ANCIENT STREETS



THIS WAS A HITTITE PANTRY

A MODERN SYRIAN RECOVERS A POT MADE BY HIS GREAT-GRANDFATHER A HUNDRED TIMES REMOVED



EXCAVATING PREHISTORIC MATERIAL UNDER THE PRESENT WATER LEVEL



A quotation from the annals of the great empire-builder Ashurnasirapal may explain why the name of Assyria spread terror over the nations:

their fighting men I put to the sword, I cut off their heads and I piled them in heaps. I built a pillar over against the city gate, and I flayed all of the chief men who had revolted, and I covered the pillar with their skins; some I walled up within the pillar, and some upon the pillar on stakes I impaled, and others I fixed to stakes round about the pillar. Three thousand captives I burned with fire. Their young men and maidens I burned in the fire.

When Nineveh, the Assyrian capital, went up in flames, the Hebrew prophet Nahum expressed the feelings of the ancient world:

Woe to the bloody city! All that hear the report of thee clap their hands over thee; for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?

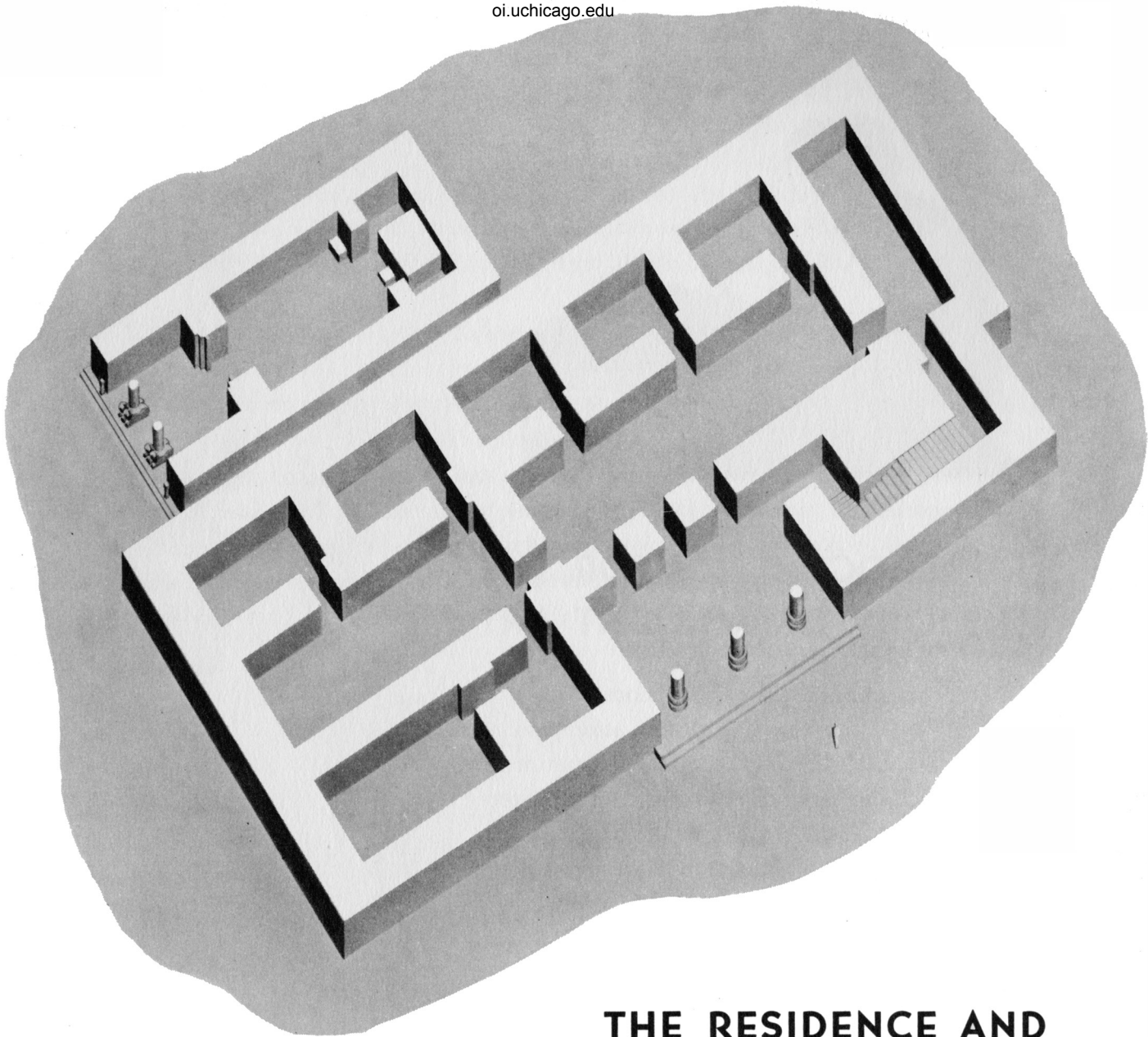
The Syrian Expedition has found numerous traces of the Assyrian occupation on Tell Tainat, another mound in the Oriental Institute's concession, where work is in progress during the current summer. This ancient royal city has already produced splendid monuments. The lions shown on the cover of this booklet are, within the canons of Hittite art, unexcelled. The examples of Hittite hieroglyphic writing deriving from this excavation, now in Chicago, are unique in American museum collections.



ONE OF THE THREE
COLUMN BASES IN
THE PORCH OF THE
ROYAL PALACE

A PAVED COURTYARD, PHOTOGRAPHED, MAPPED, AND
READY TO BE TORN OUT SO THAT THE LEVEL UNDER
IT MAY BE INVESTIGATED





THE RESIDENCE AND ROYAL CHAPEL OF THE PRINCES OF HATTINA

This isometric plan shows a palace and a temple built in the eighth century B.C. The palace in the foreground was a typical Hittite royal residence; the temple behind it, perhaps the king's private chapel, has the plan of a Greek megaron. Residential palaces of this sort were considered the last word by the later Assyrian kings: time and again they boast that they had constructed a "*bit-hilani* in the Hittite manner." Moreover, in the account of Solomon's building activity in I Kings 6 and 7 there are interesting parallels to the observations made by the excavators of this palace on Tainat. The occurrence of the megaron temple, with the lions in the porch, is further evidence of the remarkable fusion of cultures which converged on this North Syrian crossroads.



NEW DOCUMENTS FOR THE HISTORY OF ANCIENT ART

In order to establish the full sequence of cultures at Tell Judeideh, the Expedition attempted to penetrate the levels of prehistoric occupation at the base of the mound. By means of the step-trench shown on the center spread of this booklet, a cross-section of all North Syrian civilizations was obtained. Here was one hundred and thirty feet of progress and catastrophe. The excavators recovered samples from each of the epochs of human history in this crucial area, from the time when the earliest inhabitants ceased to live in caves and attained the courage and dignity of communal living some seven thousand years ago.

The latest occupants of the mound belonged to a humble Christian community of a century when the security of the *Pax Romana* made it unnecessary for them to undertake any longer the arduous climb to the top of the now lofty artificial hill.

The most striking single find made in the progress of these investigations—indeed, the members of the Expedition regard it as the most important single discovery made in all the Near East last year—was a cache of six copper statuettes. These anthropomorphic figures, three male and three female, are believed to be the earliest known representation of the human form in metal. The Institute prefers to postpone full interpretation of the significance of these remarkable figures until the very delicate cleaning is further advanced.



The material for the elucidation of the epic story of the rise of man lies buried in the Near East. Each year wind and water and vandalism take their toll of this infinitely precious evidence. Further, the changing politics of the entire Mediterranean area make the future of excavation in this region somewhat precarious. The task of salvaging and studying the evidence and of recovering the story which it reveals is perhaps the greatest task of the humanist today. Indefinite postponement of this investigation into our common heritage may be fatal.

The Oriental Institute is a unique laboratory for the investigation of the career of early man. Circumstances beyond its control have dictated its present policy of consolidating its work into a more compact organization: its finances reflect the year 1936-37 just as truly as its great expansion in 1928-29 reflected those years.

The Institute's Syrian Expedition has already made fundamental contributions to our knowledge of the ancient world. The results of its work during the current season should be even more significant. The enlightened policy of the Antiquities Department of the French High Commission in Syria is further reason for the vigorous prosecution of

work here *in the next few years*. Only the generous support of friends will prevent the withdrawal of the Oriental Institute from this very important work, with consequent damage to American prestige and to international scholarship.



"I CUT OFF THEIR HEADS"



AN ASSYRIAN GOD FOUND IN THE HOUSE
OF THE COMMANDER OF THE GARRISON

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE BUILDING, 1155 EAST 58TH STREET, CHICAGO
ON THE QUADRANGLES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

The results of the Institute's far-flung field operations, extending from Turkey through Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Iran, and Egypt, are gathered for exhibition, study, and publication at this scientific and administrative headquarters building. Five exhibition halls and a lecture hall occupy the ground floor. The other floors are devoted to administration, teaching, and research. The basement contains shops, photographic laboratories, and storage. The museum is open to the general public, and a cordial welcome is extended to all interested groups.

OFFICERS OF ADMINISTRATION

JOHN A. WILSON, *Director*

HOWARD B. MATTHEWS, *Executive Secretary*

THE SYRIAN EXPEDITION

CALVIN W. McEWAN, *Field Director*

ROBERT J. BRAIDWOOD, *Assistant*

For information in regard to the details of a membership plan, whereby interested friends may participate in both the support and the privileges of the Institute, apply to the Director of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.