

McGuire Gibson

McGuire Gibson continues to work with Mark Altaweel and three Iraqi scholars to publish in English several reports on significant archaeological excavations carried out by the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities over the past thirty years. This project, funded by the State Department through The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII), is nearing its end, but the final reports will be two book-length publications from the Oriental Institute. One will combine reports on two excavations conducted in the Diyala area, a region that was the focus of important Oriental Institute excavations from 1929 until 1936. In the 1950s, Robert McC. Adams did an innovative settlement pattern study in the same area. In addition to the Diyala publication, the project is finalizing a large manuscript on the Iraqis' work at the Assyrian capital Kalhu (modern Nimrud). This book will present the findings in the spectacular Queens' tombs, as well as other operations on the acropolis of the city.

This year saw the following additional publications by Gibson reach print:

- “The Dead Hand of Deimel” in *Beyond the Ubaid: Transformation and Integration in the Late Prehistoric Societies of the Middle East*, edited by Robert A. Carter and Graham Philip (Studies in Ancient Oriental Society 63; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2010).
- “Series Editor’s Preface” in Hamoukar I. *Urbanism and Cultural Landscapes in North-eastern Syria: The Tell Hamoukar Survey, 1999–2001*, by Jason A. Ur (Oriental Institute Publications 137; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2010)
- Editing and additional comments to “Tell Abu Sheeja/Ancient Pasime: Report on the First Season of Excavations, 2007,” by A. M. Hussein, H. A. Hamza, A. K. Thaher,

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S. J. Kadhum, M. Hashem, H. M. Taha, M. R. Altaweel, and B. Studevent-Hickman, *Akkadica* 131 (2010).

He has in press an article assessing the Diyala sequence, which should appear this year in a book from Heidelberg University Press, and he has finished his report of the re-investigation of the Y Trench at Kish, which will appear as part of Karen Wilson's publication on Kish.

During the year, he convened a fact-finding and planning meeting in Philadelphia of archaeologists who have worked or wish to work in Iraq. This was the last time that many of the attendees had the opportunity to interact with Donny George Youkhanna, who died about two weeks later. The Oriental Institute had scheduled a lecture by Dr. Youkhanna for early June. In his place, Gibson delivered an appreciation of Dr. Youkhanna's scholarly contribution to the field. A week later, at an event marking the completion of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary, Gibson gave an archaeologist's perspective on the CAD. In addition, in March he attended a meeting on the situation of Iraqi academics during war and occupation, sponsored by the Brussels Tribunal held in Ghent, Belgium. He delivered a presentation on the effect on academic life caused by the looting of archaeological museums, universities, and sites. He still serves as the president of The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq, and in that capacity he is currently endeavoring to establish a center in a rented property in Baghdad. He also continues to represent the University of Chicago on the board of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies. In addition, he still serves on the board of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.
