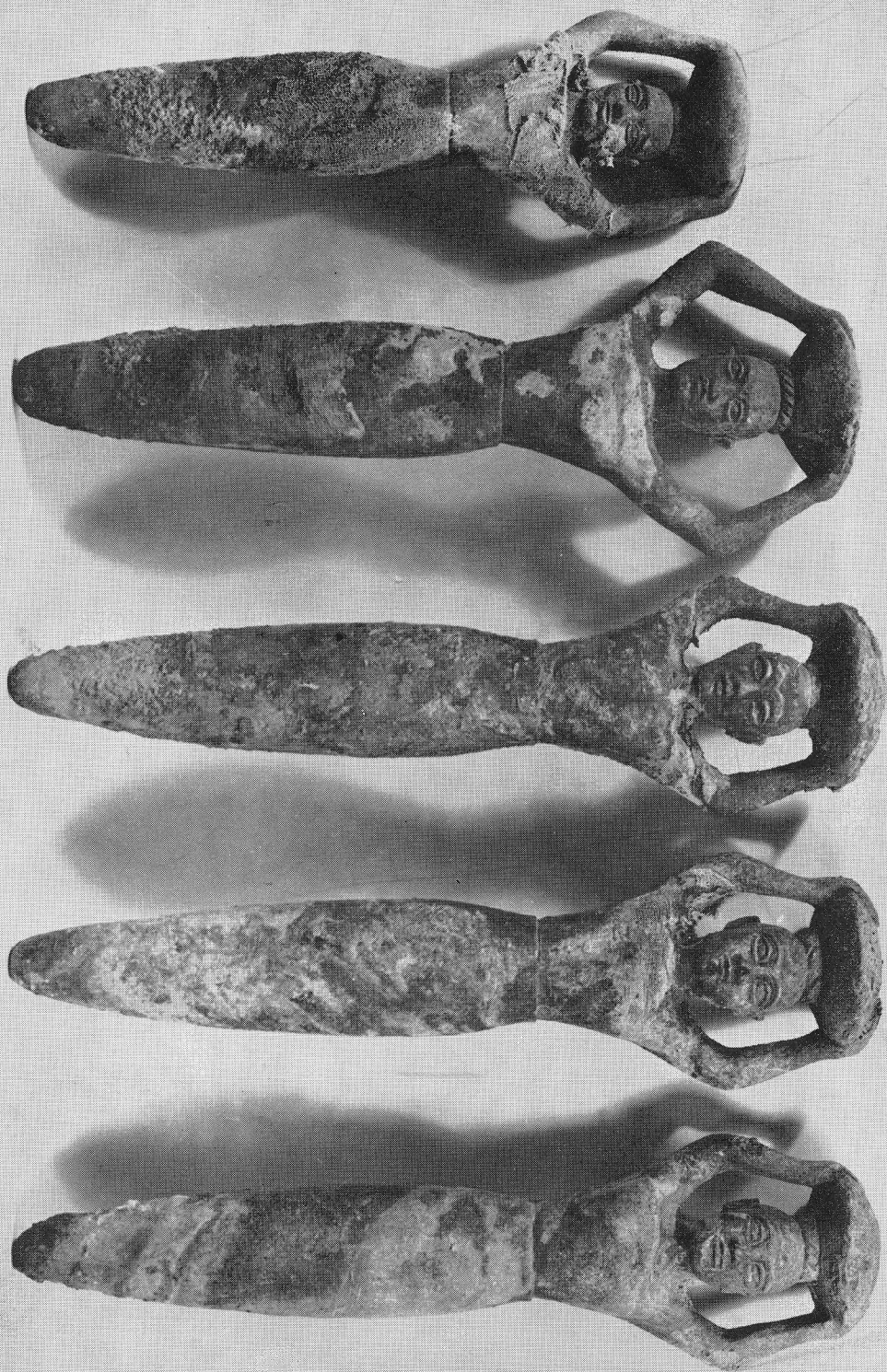


# The Oriental Institute

REPORT FOR 1955-56





Foundations of our heritage: research 1955-56.

#### HOW CAME CIVILIZATION? *The Jarmo Expedition*

The most complete and diversified team of experts ever assembled to study man's emergence from the caves and the beginnings of civilization returned from Iraq in August, 1955. During the past year it has been preparing a full-bodied report upon its findings. Chapters will describe the geological setting of the transition (H. Wright, geologist), the plant and animal resources available for it (H. Helback, botanist; C. Reed, zoölogist), the artifacts produced in it (B. Howe, prehistorian; V. Broman, P. Watson, J. Caldwell), and Carbon 14 materials used to date it (F. Matson, ceramist).

The article in *Life* magazine dealing with the discovery of agriculture in the "Epic of Man" series (April 16, 1956) was based upon a visit of members of the *Life* staff to the excavations. Other articles have appeared in the *Illustrated London News*, in *Archaeology*, and in *Antiquity*. In November, after the first report made to Institute Members, a symposium was held on the subject in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Social Science Building on campus.

R. J. BRAIDWOOD, *Field Director*

#### LO, THE ANCIENT SUMERIANS *The Nippur Expedition*

Creators of the first city-states, the Sumerians are the earliest representatives of high civilization in the Land of the Two Rivers. In 1955-56 the Institute's Sumerologists were again in the field, excavating at Nippur, in lower Iraq. The expedition was conducted jointly with the American Schools of Oriental Research. Under an overburden as much as 30 feet deep, we have found one of the largest temples ever built by the Sumerians, dedicated to Inanna, goddess of war and love, and belonging to about 2000 B.C. To date only half of the structure has been laid bare.

Important finds of objects, of inscribed clay tablets, and especially of bronze statuettes were made in the course of the excavations. The statuettes had been laid in boxes under the walls of the temple as foundation deposits. They represent the Sumerian kings Ur-Nammu and Shulgi, who founded the temple, carrying the first basket of earth from the excavation. (See Cover.)

With me as members of the staff were Professor Albrecht Goetze (Yale), Dr. Vaughn Crawford (Yale), Donald Hansen (Harvard Fellow), Professor Thorkild Jacobsen (Oriental Institute).

R. C. HAINES, *Field Director*

## ROYAL RECORDS OF RAMSES III

During 1955-56 the Epigraphic Expedition to Egypt continued to pursue its task of recording the inscriptions and reliefs of Ramses III in his mortuary temple, Medinet Habu, at Luxor. Draftsmen Champion and Floroff accounted for thirty large facsimile drawings of reliefs in the Osiris Suite and in the rooms adjacent to the Hypostyle Hall. Dr. Nims photographed the running inscriptions on the architraves of the Second Court, a high-ladder enterprise.

Through Dr. Nims the Epigraphic Expedition also participated in recording the monuments of Nubia that will be inundated when the new high Assuan Dam is built. He spent six weeks photographing the temple of Ramses II at Abu Simbel. The work is sponsored by UNESCO.

The expedition brought back to Chicago in 1955 the materials for the fifth large folio volume of Medinet Habu inscriptions and reliefs. This awaits publication. Meanwhile we are well on our way to the completion of Volume VI. Our goal is to complete the work on the Medinet Habu temple by 1961. Two additional draftsmen have been engaged to assist the epigraphers in this task.

GEORGE R. HUGHES, *Field Director*

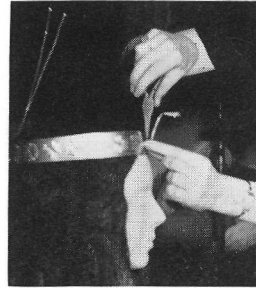
WHERE EAST AND WEST MET *The Libyan Expedition*

During the spring of 1956 an Institute group took the field in Libya on the North African coast excavating and exploring the remains of an ancient city established by the Greek kings of Egypt in the third century B.C. The city is ancient Ptolemais (named after its founder), modern Tolmeita, directly on the coast of the Mediterranean.

It was possible during the brief season of work to establish the original city plan, to excavate partially an important building of the mid-second century A.D., and to study the measures taken to defend the city during the last centuries of its history, those preceding the Arab conquest. The enterprise is expected to provide laboratory material from a new area for the study of the civic communities in the Near East and for the study of the penetration of Western civic ideals and urban forms into the Orient in the period after Alexander the Great.

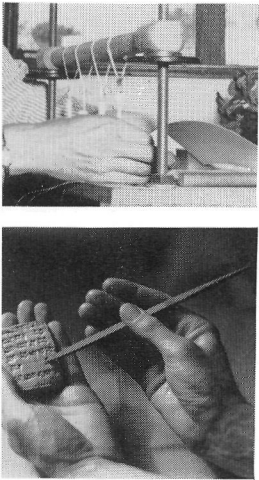
Participating in the enterprise with me were Dr. Charles Nims of the Institute's Epigraphic Survey, Dr. Lucetta Mowry (Wellesley College), G. H. R. Wright, architect (British School, Ankara).

CARL H. KRAELING, *Field Director*



## NOW WE CAN REALLY TRANSLATE ASSYRIAN

At home the *Assyrian Dictionary* enterprise, thirty-five years in progress, published the first of its projected twenty-odd volumes. Other volumes are to follow in rapid succession. This is a heroic undertaking and has already been hailed in Europe and America as marking a milestone in the history of Assyriological studies. For a million cuneiform tablets, and for three thousand years of Mesopotamian civilization, at last we have the beginning of a real "open sesame." The publication began with the words listed under the letter *H*, which is not so strange as it seems, because good judgment suggested beginning where the linguistic and philological problems were least complicated. The printing was done in Germany. Publication was directly by the Institute, and all income from sales reverts to the Institute to be used in the printing of more volumes. Currently fully caught up with me in the enterprise are Professors Benno Landsberger and Thorkild Jacobsen, Research Associates Richard Hallock, Michael Rowton, and Erica Reiner, and Research Assistants Father William Moran and Rivkah Harris.

LEO OPPENHEIM, *Managing Editor*

## PUBLICATIONS GENERALLY

The Oriental Institute is noted for its weighty scientific publications (ask for our *Catalogue*, listing over a hundred and fifty titles). During the year the editorial office processed and delivered to the University of Chicago Press four major manuscripts to appear as "Oriental Institute Publications" (OIP), namely, R. and L. Braidwood, *Excavations in the Plain of Antioch I*; C. McEwan and others, *Excavations at Tell Fakhariyah*; the Epigraphic Survey, *Medinet Habu V*; and Adriaan de Buck, *Egyptian Coffin Texts VI*. Two other manuscripts were received and are being processed, namely, M. Lichtheim, *Demotic Ostraca from Medinet Habu*, and S. Schott, *Wall Scenes from the Mortuary Chapel of the Mayor Paser at Medinet Habu*.

One volume was published by the University Press in 1955-56, namely, A. Poebel, *The Second Dynasty of Isin*; and two others are in process of publication, namely, N. Abbott, *Studies in Arabic Literary Papyri*, and E. Schmidt, *Persepolis II*. Publication lags sadly behind production owing to high printing costs in the United States.

K. SEELE, *Chairman, Publications Committee*

## THE MUSEUM

Three special exhibits were arranged in the Museum in 1955-56. Mrs. Max Schloessinger, of New York, lent us her collection of ancient lamps. These, when augmented by the Institute's finds from the earliest periods in Mesopotamia, demonstrated the range of floating-wick oil lamps from around 3000 B.C. through the Roman period. During October we hung an exhibit of water-color paintings by Eliot O'Hara. The job of hanging pictures in a museum without spare wall space was one that really taxed our ingenuity. In December we set up a series of plaster casts of sculpture from Nineveh, as well as photographs, drawings, and objects borrowed from other museums, to illustrate the beginnings of narrative art. This tied in with a symposium that the Archeological Institute of America held at the Oriental Institute the week after Christmas.

In our laboratories three volunteers have helped faithfully with restoration. Mrs. John Livingood is reconstructing an Egyptian title-ceiling ornament; Mrs. Theodore Tieken has rebuilt many pottery vases from the fragments found buried in excavated mounds; and Mrs. John Womer has made new model trees and other accessories for the model of the Tell el Amarna house that is exhibited in the Assyrian Hall. Preparator Hanson has been installing new

lighting fixtures on exhibition cases, and Assistant Preparator Timoscewski undertook the delicate restoration of a stela from Dendera.

Some noteworthy new acquisitions were added to the Museum collection last year, in addition to selected objects from the excavations at Nippur, Jarmo, and Khirbet Kerak. We were fortunate to acquire a fragment of one of the Dead Sea Scrolls, which Dr. Frank Cross has identified as part of the Cave 4 hoard. It, some papyri from Khirbet Mirt, and the Dead Sea Scroll storage jar make the nucleus of what we hope will be a growing exhibit of this interesting material. So far this fragment is the only verified piece in any American museum.

Through the generosity of Mrs. Edwin Seipp we have been able to acquire a gold plaque, roughly 2 by 5 inches, of the Achaemenian period. It shows a winged griffon and winged bull walking toward a stylized tree. The plaque was once part of a larger gold ornament, probably a pectoral or breastplate. The plaque is part of the famous Ziwayah treasure found in Kurdistan in 1947 by women looking for clay to repair their mud-brick houses. The Metropolitan Museum in New York has bought enough pieces of the gold to restore an entire breastplate, and some

of the ivories. We are glad to have at least a sample of the material.

A Sumerian bronze statuette and its accompanying stone tablet are also new acquisitions, purchased with membership funds. They were excavated at Ur but came to us through a dealer. It was the custom for Sumerian kings to place such bronze statuettes and tablets under the walls of buildings they were erecting to commemorate the event and perhaps to work some magic for the king too. The statuettes regularly show the king carrying on his head the first basketful of earth from the excavation. Often from the waist down the figures show no anatomical definition and hence are known as "nail men." The accompanying stone tablet bears the dedication of the king, whose dates were around 1900 B.C. The purchase of these objects in January must have brought us luck, because in February at Nippur our expedition uncovered seven such foundation deposits three of which the Iraq Department of Antiquities permitted us to bring back to our Museum. After cleaning and examination, all will be on exhibit in the fall.

We have exchanged some duplicate items in our collection with Egyptian pieces from the Royal Archaeological Museum at Toronto. Three prehistoric maceheads of un-

usual shape, a figurine, a jar, and an ivory hairpin are now ours on indefinite loan.

From the estate of Miss Helen Gardner, late lecturer at the Art Institute, we received a Roman gold bracelet. Mr. Chester D. Tripp gave us a spectacular collection of Hellenistic gold jewelry from Syria, on loan since 1953.

The official accessioning of expedition finds and purchases in the Museum archives cannot be accomplished until the archeologists have prepared the material for publication. In 1955-56 the descriptive cards were made for all the objects from the first four seasons at Nippur and for the objects found at Khirbet Kerak. About 553 items, large and small, were accessioned. Some 2,864 photographs and their negatives were put on file. In the Museum office 1,094 map guides, 1,945 postcards, 212 Iranian Hall handbooks, 375 photographs, 165 copies of *La Peinture ancienne égyptienne*, and 94 unbound copies of Oriental Institute publications were sold. Museum attendance for the year was 39,190. There were 152 groups. The lecture hall was host to 36 different meetings.

P. DELOUGAZ, *Curator*

W. BOYES, *Museum Secretary*

#### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S STUDY

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

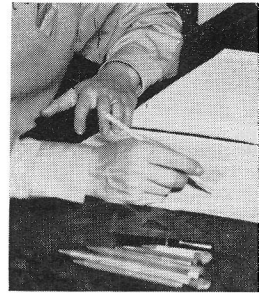
An ambitious new research program has been launched, intended to make more plastic than ever before the nature and meaning of ancient history. This has its focus in the study of the urban communities as the occasion and the hearth of higher civilization. A successful operation in Libya provided new insights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

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

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

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

CARL H. KRAELING, *Director*



#### THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

*1155 East Fifty-eighth Street, Chicago 37, Illinois*

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



To Oriental Institute Members the year 1955-56 again brought a lecture series and newsletters from the field. Five lectures dealt with new archeological discoveries in the Near East. Four others, arranged jointly with the Archeological Institute of America, provided a diversified fare. The reception for Members, following Dr. Kraeling's lecture in October, has become an annual event much enjoyed and appreciated by the Institute staff. Three newsletters from Egypt, five from the Nippur excavations, one reporting on Syria-Jordan, and three from Libya were distributed. Copies of *La Peinture ancienne égyptienne* and of an article describing the new Hellenistic gold jewelry which was given to the Museum by Mr. Chester Tripp were distributed at intervals.

The Visiting Committee of the Oriental Institute, appointed by the trustees from the membership group, consists of the following:

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#### CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MEMBERSHIP INCOME FUND

BALANCE: July 1, 1956 . . . . .	\$20,046.84
INCOME: Dues from annual members . . . . .	2,301.00
Dues from sustaining members . . . . .	750.00
Dues from associate members . . . . .	1,800.00
Other gifts . . . . .	7,317.35
Fees, sales, royalties . . . . .	110.43
TOTAL INCOME . . . . .	\$31,725.62
EXPENDITURES:	
Newsletters, lectures, reception . . . . .	\$1,636.30
Color plates for articles on Palmyra tomb to be printed in <i>Syria</i> . . . . .	1,000.00
Underwriting of <i>Assyrian Dictionary</i> , Vol. VI . . . . .	7,320.00
Ziwiye gold plaque and cylinder seals . . . . .	3,250.00
New slide projector for lecture hall . . . . .	687.74
Faculty travel to learned societies . . . . .	360.05
Dead Sea Scroll fragment and 4 papyri . . . . .	150.00
Color plates for Hellenistic gold article in <i>Archaeology</i>	350.00
Operation and maintenance of Libyan excavation . . . . .	7,110.18
Equipment for the building . . . . .	302.68
Miscellaneous . . . . .	256.74
Photographic services . . . . .	149.50
Extra expenses of Jarmo Expedition . . . . .	1,500.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES . . . . .	\$24,073.19
BALANCE: June 30, 1956 . . . . .	\$ 7,652.43





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