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).

