

*To the Members and Friends of the Oriental Institute:*

I find it a bit more difficult than usual to give you a comprehensive report on the work of the Oriental Institute for the year 1958-59. The reasons are not hard to state. For one thing, much of what went on was actually handled by an efficient administrative staff rather than by myself, owing to my illness of the past summer and to the protracted period of recuperation that it required. For another, the Iraq Revolution of July 14, 1958, and the landing of United States forces in Lebanon seriously restricted our work in the field, limiting it to Egypt. Finally, the continuance of disturbed conditions in the Near Eastern area during most of the academic year left us marking time with respect to certain policy decisions that had been under careful consideration and that, if they had been fully clarified and adopted, would have been worthy of your special attention because of their bearing upon objectives and procedures in our field work.

Of our several major projects, two were continued without interruption. In Egypt the great undertaking of the Epigraphic Survey was continued, with Professor John A. Wilson taking charge so that Professor George Hughes might enjoy a sabbatical leave here at Chicago with us. At home the equally great enterprise of the *Assyrian Dictionary* proceeded on schedule, two further volumes of the projected twenty-six coming from the presses to enhance the reputation of the *Dictionary* staff and the Institute and to provide scholars everywhere with access to the vast resources which the cuneiform texts provide for our knowledge of millenniums of ancient history. In Egypt the work we have been doing jointly with the Egyptian Department of Antiquities in the clearance of the Tomb of Kheruef was continued to the completion of its first phase, but in Libya excavation was suspended as planned, to permit work on

the preparation of the final report. Instruction of a growing student group went on in many fields at the Institute, and behind the doors of many professional offices the preparation of volumes discharging obligations from earlier enterprises was in progress.

Activity, thus, did not abate, and, if in this instance I do not go into each facet of our work in all the detail it deserves, this is because it has seemed desirable at this time to focus your attention upon our Museum and to describe its work more fully than would otherwise be possible.

*Cordially,*

CARL H. KRAELING

*Director*