

To the Members and Friends of the Oriental Institute:

The academic year of the Oriental Institute opened last July under the clouds of uncertainty. Carl Kraeling had been forced to resign as Director because his health would not permit him to carry on. While the University was looking for a successor, I was installed to carry on for one year. The field program involved unusual ventures, because of financial and political unknowns. The financial uncertainties arose chiefly out of the emergency expedition to Nubia, which could not be a part of the already accepted budget. The political problems were those inherent in a commitment to carry out a field project months in advance of the departure to the field, and political winds veer so rapidly these days that such early engagements to undertake specific actions may have to be canceled or altered suddenly.

The year draws to a close on a wonderfully positive note. No less than four expeditions were in the field, and every one of them enjoyed a remarkable success. They will be detailed below, but the highlights might be summarized here. The Nippur Expedition in Iraq, under the quiet and competent directorship of Richard C. Haines, enjoyed a sensational success in excavating the temple of the goddess Inanna, with the finest discovery of sculptured materials in twenty-five years. The Nubian Expedition, under the vigorous directorship of Keith C. Seele, became the first new expedition to take the field after the international appeal and the first expedition to complete its allotted task.

These were our two gratifying sensations. If we mention them particularly, this does not diminish the positive achievements of the other expeditions in the field and the steady production of the home activities, both of which are reported below.

Every third year the International Congress of Orientalists convenes for the scholars to exchange views and renew acquaintances.

In August, 1960, the XXVth Congress met in Moscow. Five scholars from the Oriental Institute had been chosen as delegates representing the American Oriental Society. This was the largest representation from any American institution. Indeed, the five members of the Oriental Institute and the seventeen colleagues, former colleagues, and former students probably constituted the largest foreign representation in the Soviet Union last summer. Our delegates had rewarding opportunities to meet Russian and other foreign colleagues, to view some of the remarkable collections in the Soviet museums, and to make trips into parts of the Soviet Union of particular interest to Orientalists, such as the Caucasus and Uzbekistan. One cannot deny that a new political coloration of the Congress presented distressing problems for scholarship, but the individual experiences of our scholars added greatly to the scope of their work.

Dr. and Mrs. Kraeling carried through the year with encouraging success. Although his release from administrative duties gave him the freedom to undertake field research, it was not clear how much activity his health would permit. After careful experiment with climates and altitudes, the Kraelings settled down in Jerusalem, where Dr. Kraeling started a study of the Roman period of that city. His letters to the home office have been refreshingly vigorous and cheerful, and he participated with zest in an excursion to two of his enthusiasms, Petra and Jerash. His friends will be happy to know that his year, which started with such distressing portents, has proved to be so characteristically rich.

The budget of the Oriental Institute retains its normal structure, a solid core of income from endowment funds, support from general University funds, the allocation of a grant from Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., for specified individual purposes, and the generous contributions of Members and friends of the Institute. Particularly in this year of transition and of the Nubian emergency, we are endlessly grateful to those who have made personal sacrifices so that our work may go on. Dr. Kraeling's ambition was to turn over a tidy financial structure to his successors. With your continued generosity, this can be our happy fortune.

Cordially,

JOHN A. WILSON
Director