

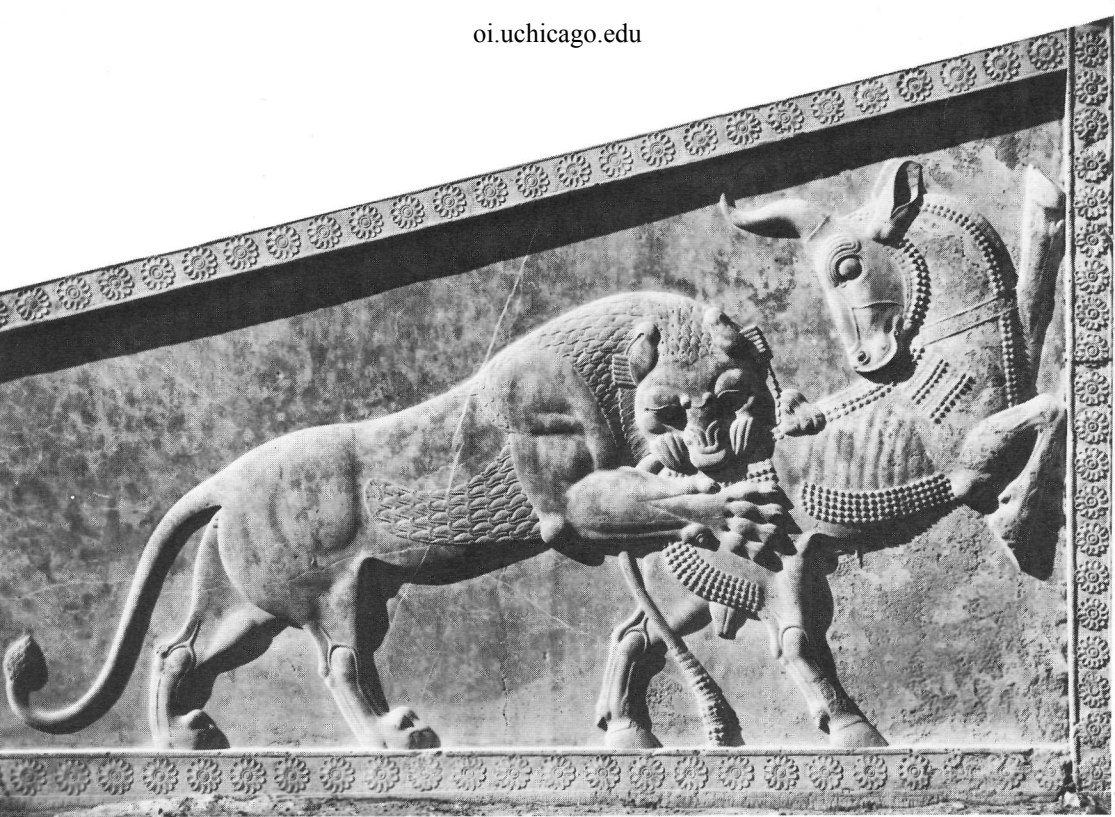
THE IRANIAN EXPEDITIONS

In charge: ERICH F. SCHMIDT, *Professor of Archeology, Field Director.*

The major operation of the Oriental Institute in Iran, covering the years 1931–39, was the excavation of Persepolis, the dynastic capital of the Achaemenids. In 1934 the University Museum of Philadelphia and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston became joint sponsors with the Oriental Institute of this project, which included also excavations in the environs of Persepolis, namely, at Naqsh-i-Rustam, Istakhr, and Tall-i-Bakun, covering periods from prehistoric to Islamic times. Available publications include A. Langsdorff's and D. E. McCown's *Tall-i-Bakun A*, G. G. Cameron's *Treasury Tablets*, Dr. Schmidt's *Treasury of Persepolis*, and the first and second volumes of his definitive report *Persepolis*. The third and final volume is nearing completion.

*Ahuramazda symbol
on doorjamb at Persepolis*





Relief on stairway at Persepolis

The Persepolis Expedition in 1933–34 discovered many thousands of cuneiform tablets inscribed in the Elamite language and dated to the time of Darius I (around 500 B.C.) These tablets illuminate many aspects of economic administration, and particularly the various kinds of payments to government workers; for example, there are records of the distribution of wine as a reward to working mothers (ten quarts for a boy, five for a girl). They greatly extend our knowledge of the Elamite language, while the words borrowed from Old Persian enlarge considerably the meager known vocabulary of that dialect. A volume dealing with some 2000 tablets, prepared by R. T. Hallock, will soon be ready for printing. A companion study of the Aramaic inscriptions obtained at Persepolis is being completed by R. A. Bowman.

In 1938 the Oriental Institute sponsored jointly with the Iranian Institute and the University Museum an exploratory expedition into the mountains of Luristan. The results of this highly successful enterprise, which culminated in the discovery of the sanctuary of Surkh Dum, are being prepared for publication by Dr. Schmidt.