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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE  
REPORT FOR 1964/65

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## THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE      REPORT FOR 1964/65

*Robert M. Adams*

*Director, Oriental Institute*

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

It will always be a moot question when the field of ancient Near Eastern studies formally came of age. Some would opt for the age of initial discoveries, such as Carsten Niebuhr's identification of the site of Babylon and his return with accurate copies of inscriptions in an unknown script from Persepolis in 1765, or Champollion's famous paper on the Rosetta Stone read before the French academy in 1822. Others, I think with greater justification, would draw the line in the latter part of the nineteenth century. This was a time when universities first began to nurture disinterested, fully professional research and when the boundaries of substantive fields of scholarship began to emerge and then to be systematically pushed back into the unknown by specialists in many centers. It was also a time, as Seton Lloyd has written, of the birth of a conscience among those who were feverishly mining the ruins of ancient cities for statuary and inscribed materials, and whose successors soon would deserve to be called archeologists.

To specify the period around a century ago, Auguste Mariette had taken charge of the Egyptian service of antiquities in 1858, introducing the long struggle to establish an Egyptian national museum which remains one of the world's greatest. The year 1859 saw the recovery of the Codex Sinaiticus by Tischendorf. Lane's *Arabic-English Lexicon*, a monument of still-useful scholarship, began to appear in 1863. Schliemann chose the mound of Hissarlik as the site at which to dig for ancient Troy in 1868, and in 1872 George Smith announced his discovery of a fragmentary cuneiform tablet con-

taining an account of the Flood. In the midst of this era of rapidly advancing discovery, on August 27, 1865, James Henry Breasted was born. The span of a century since then, like the contributions of the founder of the Oriental Institute himself, virtually encompasses our field.

As the man whose memory we honor would have wished, the past year has been one of many new beginnings. Most of the generation of scholars recruited as young men by Breasted now are moving into the ranks of elder statesmen in their fields, and a younger generation, now more largely trained in this country (in considerable part because of the interest in oriental studies which Breasted stimulated), comes forward to continue their work. This has been reflected in a number of new appointments and promotions: Erica Reiner to the rank of full professor of Assyriology, Klaus Baer (formerly at Berkeley) and Edward Wente to associate professorships in Egyptology, Ake Sjöberg (Uppsala) to an associate professorship in Sumerology, and Robert Biggs, John A. Brinkman, and Miguel Civil as assistant professors of Assyriology. Others who have joined our staff during the past year include Maurits van Loon, Museum Secretary and field director of our newly formed (with the aid of a National Science Foundation grant) Euphrates Valley Expedition; Philo Houwink ten Cate, collaborating with Professor Hans Güterbock in the study of Anatolian languages; and David Weisberg, on the staff of the Assyrian Dictionary.

These changes, usually considered only on their highly individual merits, cumulatively form a pattern which embodies the hope and intent of the Oriental Institute to remain in the forefront of its field

during the years to come. Naturally, the methods, emphases and assumptions of the field will change; to a larger degree than we realize, they probably are changing continuously. Yet the need to preserve a heritage of scholarship is also with us. It finds a current and fitting expression in the publication of a massive volume honoring Professor Benno Landsberger on his seventy-fifth birthday. The contribution to that volume, from his former students and distinguished colleagues in many lands, testify to a tradition of scholarship we must continue to emulate.

Other beginnings during the past year, while new in their specific features, in many cases take directions which Breasted already initiated. Our newly constructed field headquarters on the mound covering the Sumerian city of Nippur, for example, is the first we will have had in Iraq since the days of our excavations on the Diyala plains before World War II, but even the details of its design incorporate lessons learned by the old Iraq Expedition under Henri Frankfort's leadership. Moreover, it reflects the same commitment which Breasted then stressed to work in depth, without arbitrary limit in the period of excavation or in the range of specializations employed, in order to bring dead cities back to life in all their former richness and complexity. Similarly, a new film illustrating something of the aims and methods of Egyptology, as well as the full scope of the Oriental Institute's research activities in the Nile Valley, bears at least certain points of resemblance to Breasted's pioneering documentary of the thirties, "The Human Adventure." Under production on our behalf by Charles Sharp of Cameras International, at this writing the film is nearing completion

and should be ready to receive your critical reactions early in the fall.

A vital consideration in the Oriental Institute's program has always been its cultural outreach to the Chicago community. While changing in specific objectives and methods over the years, there has always been recognition that an indispensable part of the task of recovering the original evidence on the backgrounds and history of the great oriental civilizations was the effort to interpret and present it as a whole to the widest possible audience. Our membership program, including its newsletters, public lectures, and other features, has been one means of attaining this end. Of course the Museum itself, one of the world's few really great repositories of Near Eastern antiquities, is another.

With the aid of a group of interested friends of the Oriental Institute, under the leadership of Mr. Press Hodgkins and Mrs. Theodore D. Tieken, an effort is under way to expand this program, by this means intensifying our dialogue with the Chicago community. While details remain to be worked out, it is anticipated that the coming year will see an invigorated exhibit policy within the Museum, a considerable expansion in the schedule of lectures as well as a diversification in their format, and a closer articulation of our teaching and guide programs with the needs of Chicago's schools. By the time of our next report, a year hence, I trust that a description of the program will have become largely redundant as its full impact gradually becomes known.

As is almost always the case, there have been many distinguished visitors during the past year whom it has been a pleasure to welcome and with whom it has been a pleasure to work for varying

periods. Particularly to be mentioned are Dr. R. D. Barnett, Keeper of Western Asiatic Antiquities in the British Museum; Professor Halet Çambel, Robert Braidwood's Istanbul colleague and co-director of the Prehistoric Project; Père Roland de Vaux, of the École Biblique et Archéologique Française in Jerusalem; and Professor Ezat O. Negahban, from Teheran University. On a much larger scale, the Oriental Institute also was host to the American Oriental Society, which assembled for its annual meeting in April at the University of Chicago's elegant new Center for Continuing Education. Members of our Visiting Committee, as well as President and Mrs. George W. Beadle, were on hand to greet almost three hundred delegates at a reception in our Museum halls.

I must close this review of the year's activity on a different note. On October 3, 1964, Professor Erich F. Schmidt passed away in Santa Barbara after a long illness. Characteristically, he overcame increasing physical incapacity to work almost until the end, leaving us the completed manuscript for a third magnificent volume on his excavations at Persepolis. Imaginatively and meticulously carrying forward some of the most crucial of the great projects which Breasted envisioned, he had become the doyen of Iranian archeology. We are joined by colleagues and friends in many countries in mourning his loss.

Cordially,

*Robert M. Adams*

DIRECTOR



# WORK IN THE FIELD AND AT HOME

## NUBIAN EXPEDITION

*Keith C. Seele, Field Director*

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Time for contemplation is seldom available in the field during an Oriental Institute season of excavation. But matters are scarcely better after the return to the home base, if fifty packing cases of antiquities have to be unpacked, sorted, moved two or three times, prepared for exhibition, and interpreted even in a preliminary manner. Still, if the finding of two thousand objects in the ancient cemeteries of Nubia was an exciting experience, that perhaps excusable emotion was possibly even surpassed while the exhibits were being set up and it was realized what treasures the expedition had brought home. We knew that some of them were good when we lifted them out of the graves. Then, when our devoted volunteers in the Oriental Institute basement, completely devoid of bias or prejudice, took time out from their pot-mending to admire our finds, we really began to warm up to them a second time. They continued to grow on us as the new exhibit took shape. Besides, during that hectic period we kept finding that objects which we had shipped home in pieces not only fitted together but were in some cases astonishingly interrelated. Soon we began to realize that certain of our finds, especially among the A-group objects, were destined to become world famous—attractions to draw scholars to our Museum for years to come.

While these lines cannot serve in any way as a scientific report, we think it right and proper to share with the friends of the Oriental Institute a few of our observations on several of our most important finds and to invite them to visit the Nubian Hall and observe them in their context.

Five years ago, in the initial planning of the program of the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition, hope was expressed that its results might bring to light new links between Egypt and inner Africa. Perhaps we shall enjoy some realization of this hope, but we little dreamed that we should be fated to turn up fantastic links between second-cataract Nubia and Mesopotamia! Henri Frankfort long ago



proposed that early Egyptian niched brick walls were derived from similar architecture in Mesopotamia. And Helene Kantor has published important observations of the occurrence in prehistoric Egyptian art of a well-known type of Mesopotamian boat with high prow and stern, notably on the earliest Egyptian wall painting from Hierakonpolis (Gerzean period), a copy of which is exhibited in Alcove A of the Egyptian Hall. But it remained for our Nubian expedition to discover a ceremonial palette with deeply incised relief depicting in a single series of scenes three of these Mesopotamian boats, one with hoisted sail, headed apparently toward a shore on which stands a building with niched façade. In the water beneath the rightmost boat is a crocodile (head only preserved), which identifies the river as the Nile (for there are no crocodiles in the Tigris and Euphrates rivers). On the riverbank there is also a goat standing on his hind legs browsing at the vegetation—a motif exceedingly common in early Mesopotamian art though not unknown in later Egyptian representations. The combination might well have been made to order to establish the links between those two oldest civilizations of the world—the Protoliterate period in Mesopotamia, the Gerzean in Egypt—yet we found them on a single shattered object in the plundered grave of an A-group chief or kinglelet in Nubia, nine hundred miles up the Nile. A similar Mesopotamian type of boat occurs as the isolated decoration on a huge storage jar which we found in our second A-group cemetery, a mile to the north of the other. Other jars from its graves contain decoration reminiscent of the entwined snakes well known in early Mesopotamian art as fertility symbols. Some of the graves, including the one in which we discovered the famous palette, produced offering-stands or altars which might almost be mistaken for Mesopotamian examples. Thus, all in all, the links between this area of Nubia and the valley of the Tigris-Euphrates appear to be overwhelmingly demonstrated.

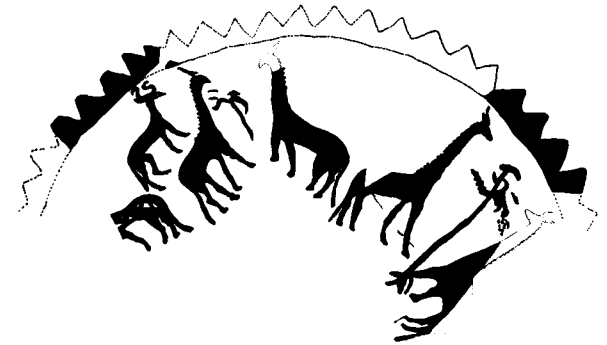
◊ *Relief on ceremonial palette from A-group grave, showing three boats heading toward niched building.*

Another of our A-group graves in the cemetery which produced the palette contained several potsherds, assembled only after we examined them in the basement of the Oriental Institute, depicting in faded red paint two pairs of giraffes facing each other and browsing at the fronds of a date palm. The motif, rare in the Nile Valley but known (with other animals) in Mesopotamia, occurs also on three slate palettes from the Gerzean period of Egypt, about 3200 B.C. We thus have five examples of it, two on our broken bowl, and there is no room for doubt that the grave in which it was found must be assigned to the Gerzean period as well.

Finally, on the reverse of one of the Egyptian palettes with the giraffes, there is a famous relief which has caused the object to be designated as “the palette of the vultures.” The style of these “vultures” is precisely the same as that of three birds of prey represented in red paint on a huge pottery bowl from the largest of our A-group graves, which we have attempted to re-create in the Nubian Hall of the Museum. If our logic is sound, it would appear that this enormous tomb must also date to the Gerzean period, in complete consistency with those adjacent to it in the same cemetery.

Our excitement when reviewing the new Nubian finds and planning their scientific publication is not confined to the important

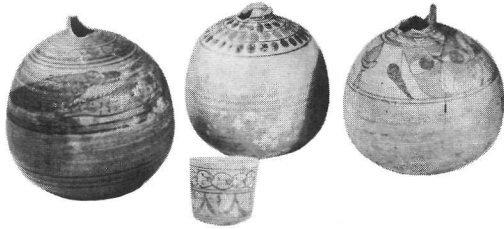
*Painting on pottery vessel from A-group grave, depicting two pairs of giraffes browsing at date palm.*



*Painting on pottery bowl from A-group grave, representing three birds of prey, snakes, etc.*



*Meroitic painted pottery, including globular bottle with four crocodiles (left), and similar vessel with grotesque human face (right).*



*Red bowl from C-group grave, incised with three registers of cattle, emphasized by white pigment.*



A-group material. The area was occupied fifteen hundred years later by a race of cattle-breeders traditionally designated, owing to our general ignorance of their origin, as the C-group people. We know little about their dwellings or manner of life, but their graves have given to us many examples of their disintegrated leather garments, a considerable amount of jewelry, including shell earrings, ivory and bone bracelets, an ostrich-feather fan, and the like. They were masters of ceramics, however, and outside their stone grave superstructures we found hundreds of pottery bowls and other vessels, most of them perfectly preserved. Most noteworthy are the black incised bowls, no two alike, with designs emphasized by white pigment. Perhaps the finest existing example of this remarkable ware has come to the Oriental Institute and is now exhibited in the Museum. By way of exception, this bowl with its three registers of cattle is red in color and not the typically black type as represented in seventy-five others which we recovered. (An almost identical one, of black ware, was retained by the Cairo Museum.)

Most of the artifacts produced by the people of the ancient world were made of perishable material and have survived either not at all or in deplorable condition. Thus we are inestimably fortunate that their pottery either broken or unbroken is virtually imperishable. Our Nubian exhibit is rich in pottery of all periods. In the brief space

available for our report we wish to call special attention to several extraordinary Meroitic painted examples. We have selected for illustration one group, consisting of three globular bottles and a cup. The bottle with the four crocodiles certainly reflects the dread which this creature always instilled in the Nile-dweller, and he is a truly fearsome animal on our example. The grotesque human face on a second bottle is of deep interest historically, for it was inspired by the face of the Egyptian goddess Hathor, by late Meroitic times virtually forgotten and no longer recognizable. The development of her "decline" can be followed by comparison of this with other painted bottles and sherds in the exhibit.

The Meroitic people of Ballana were undoubtedly carrying on a brisk trade with the outside world. It is probable that much of the glass jewelry, so richly represented in the exhibit, was thus obtained. For the visitor's information it should be stated that we have restrung the beads in the original arrangement wherever we were able to observe it before removal. Another glass object is perhaps the climax of our Meroitic material. This is the lovely glass jar, exhibited like a diamond in its setting at the far end of the Nubian Hall. It was found broken slightly yet intact in a Meroitic grave, a rare and beautiful creation from the time of the Roman occupation of Nubia. A little earlier, Cleopatra would have been willing to set it on her toilet table.

*Glass jar, found in Meroitic grave*



## THE NIPPUR EXPEDITION

*Richard C. Haines*

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Last November the Nippur Expedition returned to central Iraq for its ninth season of work at the large city-mound of Nippur. The staff consisted of Mr. James Knudstad as director and architect, Dr. Robert Biggs as epigrapher, McGuire Gibson as archeologist and photographer, and Miss Diane Taylor as archeological and epigraphic assistant. Tarik al-Janabi was the Iraq government representative; when he was called to do his term of army service, Miss Selma al-Radi was appointed in his place. The expedition had two objectives: the beginning of a systematic and complete excavation of the Ekur, a complex of buildings and courtyards dedicated to the city god Enlil, and the construction of a permanent headquarters.

The ziggurat in the main courtyard of Ekur was excavated by the Babylonian Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania in the latter part of the nineteenth century, and the temple of Enlil beside the ziggurat was cleared by the joint expedition of the Oriental Institute and the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania in 1948–50. However, the southern part of the courtyard and the casemated enclosing walls are practically untouched. The Ekur is still better known from the written records than from the partly excavated remains. To clear the Ekur is not an easy or a quickly realized task. The Parthians used the dominating structures of the Ekur as a base for a huge fortress built with massive and deeply founded walls. The Babylonian Expedition dug out much of the fortress and then used the area as a dump, piling the dirt high above the original surface of the mound. This dump had to be removed, and the formerly excavated rooms had to be cleared of seventy years of accumulated debris before any meaningful excavation could begin.

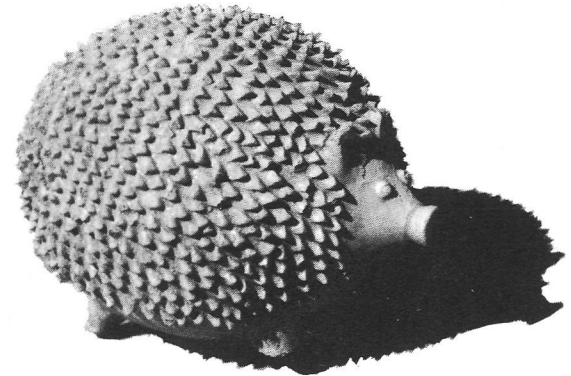
Fortunately, the removal of the dump and debris required little supervision so that the construction of the house, which required a constant and attentive eye, could be undertaken at the same time.

It took from early in November until the latter part of January before the mound site was ready for excavation and the house was habitable.

The house was designed by James Knudstad, who had learned what an expedition house should be like by living in rented and usually inadequate expedition houses in Iraq, Persia, and the Sudan. The plan of the house is a clean rectangle, with rooms grouped around three interior courtyards. The forecourt, where the vehicles are kept, serves the kitchen, the servants' rooms, and the work rooms for the expedition staff; the rear and very private courtyard is an access to the eight sleeping rooms and the necessary washrooms, showers, and toilets. Mr. Knudstad used the typical native construction which any village mason knows. The house is built of sun-dried bricks on a baked brick foundation and roofed with wood beams which support horizontal poles covered with matting, rushes, and mud plaster. It is large and substantial—and a most comforting sight as one approaches the mound.

Actual excavation started in early February and continued until the latter part of March. Work centered on the Parthian fortress covering the southern part of Ekur. The Babylonian Expedition, which had completely or partially dug some of the rooms, left others untouched so that the entire stratigraphy of the Parthian period has been pre-

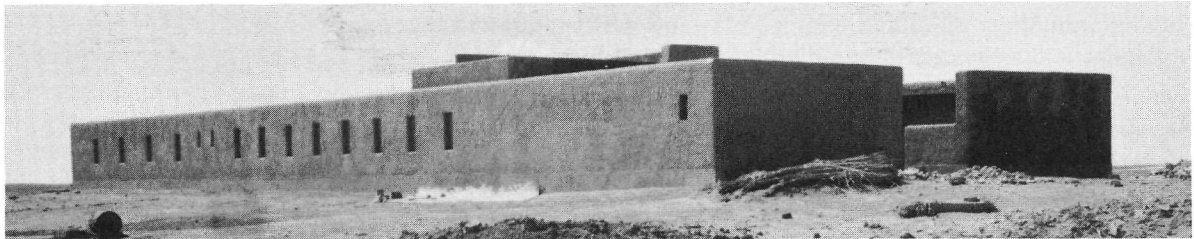
*A green-gray pottery hedgehog (12 inches long) which is actually a water jug. It was found in a niche in an arched doorway of the Parthian fortress at Nippur.*



served. The fortress had been repaired, rebuilt, and expanded and proves to be much more complicated than the existing records show. The complete clearance of the area will give a unique architectural sequence of Parthian building. It will have to be well studied before the walls can be removed and the Ekur below it can be exposed. It is not a work for the fainthearted and will take several seasons to complete.

This has been a season of beginnings. The new field house will permit the building-up of study collections and a reference library which has been impossible heretofore. A larger staff can be housed and still leave guest rooms for visitors. The feeling of optimism and permanence, reflected in the building of an expedition house, allowed the choice of the Ekur, the most sacred area in this holy city, as a site to be excavated. It is the most extensive program that the Oriental Institute has yet undertaken at Nippur.

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*A view of the new expedition house at Nippur from the northeast*



## THE SOUNDINGS AT TELL ABU SALABIKH

*Richard C. Haines*

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In the spring of 1963, Dr. Donald P. Hansen conducted the first investigation of the low-lying mounds of Abu Salabikh, some ten miles north of Nippur. In one of the many soundings he made he uncovered, just below the surface, the substantial walls of a large private house or palace of the Early Dynastic III period (2775–2675 B.C.). Among the objects found in the rooms were a number of cuneiform tablets. Both the architecture and the tablets warranted a further investigation of the site.

In January, 1965, Dr. Hansen returned to continue the excavation of the building he had partially cleared two years before. He was assisted by Dr. Robert Biggs as epigrapher and Miss Diane Taylor as archeologist and the Iraqi government representative, Miss Selma al-Radi. Although the digging was limited to three weeks, owing to Dr. Hansen's commitments as a professor at New York University, it was found that the building was an extensive one, seemingly composed of several units, each with its court yard and surrounding rooms. The use of the building is still unknown. Its plan already extends beyond the ordinary limits of a private house, and, since no room contained objects or installations of a recognizably religious nature, no part of the building can be considered a temple. When the area is enlarged and excavated to its original foundations, it is hoped some clue to its use will be found.

The major find of this season was a group of tablets similar to tablets already known from Fara, which seem to have been dumped in one of the rooms. This is the second largest collection of tablets of the Early Dynastic periods and particularly important because of the large number of literary texts. A number of the tablets are lexical and a few economic. The tablet catalogue now has more than four hundred items, three hundred of which are from this season.



## THE PREHISTORIC PROJECT

*Robert J. Braidwood, Field Director*

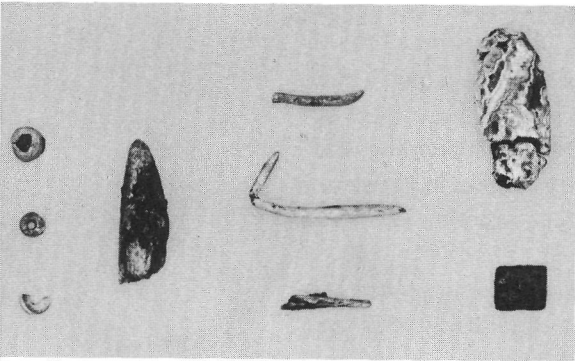
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The Prehistoric Project finished off its 1963–64 field season at Çayönü near Ergani in the Diyarbakir province of southeastern Turkey in late June, 1964. Since that time the processing and interpretation of the excavated materials has proceeded in both Istanbul and in Europe and the United States.

To the degree to which the radioactive carbon age determination method allows fixing a firm chronology, Çayönü appears to have flourished around 7000 B.C. Age determinations have been secured on Çayönü charcoal samples from both the University of Groningen, Holland, and the University of Michigan. As we had anticipated, this gives reasonable assurance that the southeastern flanks of the Taurus Mountains in Turkey was also a region of prime importance in the formation of the village farming community way of life.

Under Turkish law, all antiquities must remain within Turkey. Thanks to our very successful collaboration with Professor Halet Çambel of the Department of Prehistory, Istanbul University, one of our graduate students (Mr. Peter Benedict, with his wife, Cordelia) was kept on as an assistant in Professor Çambel's department for the 1964–65 academic year. This has allowed Mr. Benedict both to process a block of the excavated materials and to continue the training of a small core of Istanbul students at the same time. Robert and Linda Braidwood and Bruce Howe, the American archaeological seniors on the staff, received a National Science Foundation travel supplement to spend a month in Istanbul in March, 1965, for further material processing. It was our pleasure to find that Mr. and Mrs. Benedict had been representing the American end of our joint effort with Istanbul most happily. In May, 1965, Professor Çambel was able to be in Chicago for a fortnight's work with the Braidwoods.

*Malachite and copper objects from Çayönü*



The Turkish law does allow non-artifactual materials (e.g., unworked animal bones, plant materials, geological and pollen analytical specimens) to be exported. The processing and interpretation of these materials goes forward under the hands of Barbara Lawrence (Harvard), Jack R. Harlan (Oklahoma State), Herbert E. Wright (Minnesota), and Willem van Zeist (Groningen). Further, Professor Çambel was able to take the important collection of early copper artifacts from Çayönü to Dr. Junghau's laboratory in Stuttgart. There is now no question but that copper working, in part by the hot hammering method, was being done by the Çayönü people.

The next field season is not anticipated until the autumn of 1967, when an attempt will be made—among other things—to clear all of two remarkable buildings which the 1964 campaign exposed in part.

## THE HITTITE PROJECT

*H. G. Güterbock*

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As in 1958, 1959, and 1961, the Oriental Institute in 1964 again co-operated with the German Archaeological Institute in the excavations of Boghazköy, the Hittite capital in Turkey. Apart from a financial contribution this co-operation consisted in the participation of Professor Hans G. Güterbock in the actual excavation as well as in the philological work on the Boghazköy tablets kept in the Ankara Museum. The excavation, which lasted from August 1 to November 1, 1964, was directed, in the absence of Professor Kurt Bittel, by the architect, Mr. Peter Neve; archeologists were Dr. Winfried Orthmann and Dr. Ruth Opificius. Professor Heinrich Otten shared the work on the tablets with Mr. Güterbock.

Work in 1964 concentrated on Büyük Kale ("The Great Fortress"), the royal acropolis. The goal was to bring the work here near completion; in particular, the objectives were (1) to complete the plan of the Empire Period (thirteenth century B.C.), especially in the southwestern part of the acropolis; (2) to complete the stratigraphy of the earlier periods; and (3) to restore the Empire buildings to a state in which they are protected and clearly visible.

This goal was reached—not completely, but to a substantial measure. The plan of the imperial acropolis can be considered complete, after the discovery of a ruined building on the west edge which seems to have been a gate structure, and the complete clearing of the buildings enclosing the first courtyard on its west and south sides.

Deep soundings in the court and inside the buildings surrounding it gave a good opportunity to confirm the older stratigraphy observed in previous years and yielded well-preserved dwellings in Levels IVd (period of the Assyrian merchant colonies) and Vc (early Middle Bronze).

Restoration went on simultaneously, wherever possible. Foundations of Empire buildings were partly rebuilt and brought up to the ancient floor level, and the spaces between them were filled with dump to the floor level, so that visitors will now be able to see the ground plan of the acropolis while walking over it.

During the last two weeks of the campaign a test trench opened on the west slope of the acropolis led to the discovery of a stepped and paved pathway leading to a well at the foot of the slope. This structure probably dates from the post-Hittite, or Phrygian, period. An investigation of its continuation toward the interior had to be left for a future campaign.

Cuneiform tablets were found mainly in debris overlying the Empire level in the northwestern part of the acropolis. Of about three hundred fragments recovered in this area, about seventy were fragmentary letters pertaining to the administration.

## THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

*Charles Francis Nims, Field Director*

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As in recent seasons, in 1964–65 work was continued on the recording of the High Gate at Medinet Habu and the Tomb Chapel of Kheruef, steward of Queen Tiy. In the latter some sections of the wall have suffered from ancient wilful destruction of the reliefs and from the exudation of salts, and special attention has been required on the part of both the artist and the Egyptologist to recover what remains of the original design. In other areas parts of the relief have been cut away by modern vandals. A bit of this destruction can be seen in the accompanying photograph, on the right of the enlargement on which artist Leslie Greener is pointing out a problem in epigraphy to Egyptologist Leonard Lesko on a cold February day. Fortunately, Professor Adolph Erman made a sketch drawing of the wall in 1886, before the damage, and this will serve as a guide in our restoration of the figures and inscriptions.

The grant of United States government funds, originally for the season of 1963–64, was extended for a period sufficient to use the unexpended balance. This extension made it possible to retain Mr. Alexander Floroff for six months beyond his retirement so that he might complete his drawings and to bring Mr. Labib Habachi to Luxor for two months so that he could continue his research into the history of Kheruef.

When the clearance of the tomb of Kheruef was being completed at the very end of the 1958–59 season, there was found a small chest containing artist's pigments. It was then too late in the season to study these, and the chest was placed in one of the storerooms of the Department, with which the Epigraphic Survey was co-operating in the clearance. In the late winter of 1965 this chest and its contents were brought out from the storeroom, measured, photographed, and the contents

*Leslie Greener and Leonard Lesko checking copy on relief in Tomb Chapel of Kheruef* ↻

weighed. The pigments were taken to Cairo in the technical laboratories of the Department. Preliminary verbal reports indicate that we have new discoveries concerning ancient Egyptian pigments. When the analysis is complete, Professor Edward Wente will join the technician in publishing the report.

Mr. Michael Barnwell and our new artist, Mr. John Hacker, continued work on the High Gate. The latter decided not to return to Luxor for the 1965-66 season, and his successor has not yet been selected. Mr. Lesko returned to the Oriental Institute at the end of March to continue his graduate studies. The third Egyptologist for the coming season will be Dr. Carl DeVries, at present with the Trinity Theological Seminary.

Since the invaluable publication of the late Professor Harold H. Nelson, *Key Plans Showing Locations of Theban Temple Decorations*, has been out of print for some time, and since demand for it continues, it will be reprinted soon with a few corrections and additions made by the writer with the help of our senior artist, Mr. Reginald Coleman.

An increasing number of scholars, including many Egyptians, are making use of the outstanding library on ancient Egypt at Chicago House. The library also attracts many other visitors, a gratifying portion of whom are members and friends of the Oriental Institute. Some of these have made use of our limited facilities and have spent short times with us at Chicago House. Whenever possible, on due notice, rooms are available there for members of the Oriental Institute, and we trust that those who travel in the Near East will come to Luxor to meet and visit with the members of the staff.





## FURTHER EXCAVATIONS AT KHIRBAT AL-KARAK AND NAHAL TAVOR IN ISRAEL

*P. P. Delougaz, Field Director*

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The report on the 1963 season at Khirbat al-Karak described the aims of our renewed work on that site, namely, to chart the development of this very early and very large urban center and the ramifications of its cultural relationships through the early, and most important, phases of its existence. The large size of the site and the fact that much of its area is no longer available for excavation because of modern buildings and agriculture pose some problems as to how to pursue these aims most effectively and economically.

The method of testing in suitably located areas by trenching from the surface down to virgin soil, which we adopted in the previous season, was continued in the summer of 1964, though for practical reasons (some of them temporary, such as the vintage in a vineyard on the site), we were not entirely free in the choice of the areas to be tested. Again, as in 1963, our season in the field had to be confined to the summer, mainly during university vacation.

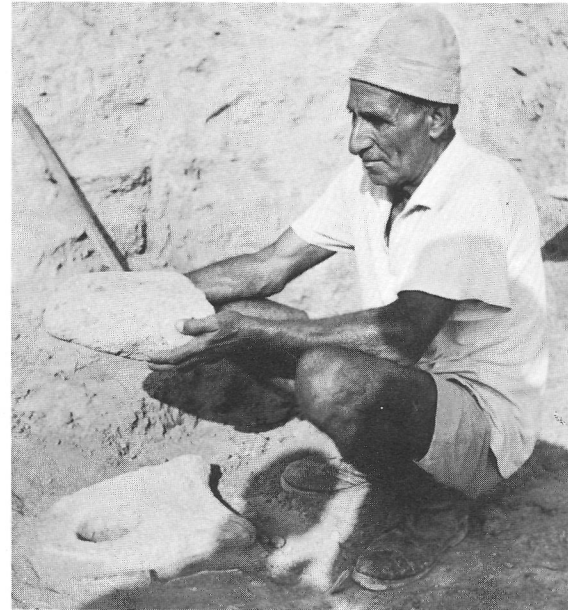
A somewhat larger staff, consisting of Professor Helene J. Kantor, myself, two of our own graduate students, and a varying number of Israeli assistants, made it possible to work on a considerably greater scale than in the previous season. At Khirbat al-Karak we opened eight new trenches, varying in size between 12 and 80 square meters, and carried all of them but one to virgin soil. In addition, at the request of the Department of Antiquities, we undertook to test two strips along the west side of the main road which bisects the site as a preliminary to the necessary widening of that road (the cost of labor for this operation was contributed by the Public Works Department of the government of Israel). The most promising of them were also carried down to virgin soil, thus providing additional, very useful stratigraphic information.

Virgin soil was reached at varying depths below the surface, indicating that the original terrain

at the time of the first major settlement on the mound had been far from flat. Thus we are beginning to form a rough idea about the original topography of the site. All soundings gave good stratigraphic sequences with building remains and voluminous pottery collections. A careful "quantitative analysis" was begun in the field under the direction of Dr. Kantor. When this work is completed for final publication, it will enable precise definitions of cultural periods, their subdivisions, and transitions from one to another.

In addition to the work at Khirbat al-Karak, the excavation of tombs at Nahal Tavor, begun in 1963 at the request of the Department of Antiquities, was continued in 1964. Five tombs were completely excavated; one, badly disturbed, belonged to the Middle Bronze-Late Bronze period; the others, though disturbed, were fairly coherent chronologically and produced excellent collections of whole vessels of the Early Bronze I period, which are a welcome supplement and a tangible illustration of the contemporary pottery material represented by innumerable potsherds at Khirbat al-Karak itself.

In summing up the results of the brief season at Khirbat Karak, one may say that the campaign provided new materials and information valuable not only for the understanding of the history of the site itself but leading to very interesting general implications. As to the



*Two door sockets. The earlier one still in position on its floor; the later one held at the position in which it was found.*

material itself, we added considerably to both ends of the spectrum as it were. At the later end we obtained a considerable collection of Persian-Hellenistic pottery and some structures associated with it that are of great interest to scholars engaged in research concerning these relatively little known periods in Palestinian archeology. On the other, earlier, end, which is of the greater interest to us, we were fortunate to have discovered pottery preceding the Early Bronze I age, which apparently belongs to the neolithic-chalcolithic age. Unlike the earliest Early Bronze I pottery, this earlier pottery was found only sporadically; its largest concentration was in a pit dug into virgin soil and filled with coarse sand or fine gravel. One may safely conclude that while the site was settled during the neolithic-chalcolithic period, the occupation was not uniform and did not cover the whole site. In contrast, Early Bronze I pottery was found on virgin soil in every one of our soundings without exception, indicating that at that period a massive settlement—a truly urban agglomeration—must have existed. The same situation continued during the Early Bronze II period, when very close relations with Syria, on the one hand, and Egypt, on the other, have been firmly established. In contrast, the following Early Bronze III period seemed to have witnessed considerable contraction of the inhabited area. This is the period during which the characteristic and famous Khirbat Karak pottery makes its first appearance. Recent discoveries in northeast Anatolia and in Russian Armenia and Georgia provide tangible evidence that this type of pottery is intrusive in Palestine, perhaps with its bearers coming eventually from the Kura-Araxes area. The coincidence of the intrusion of a new type of pottery, with the apparent contraction of the inhabited areas and the eventual abandonment of the site for a long period, begins to form a picture as to how the arrival of the intruders affected one of the largest known urban centers in early Palestine.

## REPORT ON THE ASSYRIAN DICTIONARY PROJECT

A. Leo Oppenheim

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Quite early during the past year Volume A/1 (392 pages) was published, and now, at the end of the same year, the next volume, Volume B (about 450 pages), is already in page proofs and scheduled to come out in early fall, 1965. This indicates that the team working on the Project has not slackened its pace since the publication phase of the CAD began in 1954. Over the past eight months the manuscript for the coming volume (A/2), which will be longer than any published previously, has been in preparation.

Apart from writing and editing the articles and reading proof, the staff devotes part of its time to take care of the steady flow of newly published text material in order to keep the CAD files up to date and to maintain files of additions and corrections to the volumes already published. A final index volume of all English translations of Akkadian words, a list of Sumerian words mentioned, and a list of all cited passages is likewise in preparation.

- I. Volume A/1 (1964) xxxvi+392 pages. \$18.00
- III. Volume D(1959) xiv+203 pages. \$ 8.50
- IV. Volume E(1958) xiv+435 pages. \$15.00
- V. Volume G(1956) xiii+158 pages. \$ 7.00
- VI. Volume H(1956) xiii+266 pages. \$10.00
- VII. Volumes I-J(1960) xv+331 pages. \$13.00
- XVI. Volume S(1962) xv+262 pages. \$12.00
- XXI. Volume Z(1961) xv+170 pages. \$ 8.50



◇ *Copy of cuneiform original (left), punch cards (center) and concordance (right) of Sumerian literary texts*

In order to facilitate work on the Assyrian Dictionary Project, as well as the personal research of individual scholars, the team of the Dictionary has undertaken the task of having the entire Assyriological literature microfilmed. This was done according to the Recordak System, which allows the location of an individual page on a roll of 100 feet (with up to fifteen hundred exposures) within a few seconds by means of a system of coding. The entire corpus of Assyriological literature, text publications, editions and discussions, books and individual articles alike, was organized for this purpose in ways which should make them a handy and efficient tool for the Assyriologists working on the Assyrian Dictionary Project. The cartridges, which are assembled according to topic (literary, medical, lexical, etc.), geographical provenience (Cappadocian, Old Assyrian, Peripheral, etc.), and similar principles (texts in the British Museum, etc.), amount now to about thirty, exclusive of those which contain entire periodicals of importance for Assyriology or related fields. Efficient microfilm readers have been placed in several offices so that any passage in cuneiform or referring to the work of an Assyriologist can be easily and quickly checked. The use of microfilm in this convenient system not only will help to preserve the books and manuscripts in our library, which are rapidly deteriorating through constant use by a team of six and more members, but will also alleviate the ever more pressing problem of the storage of books.

Present plans are to enlarge the collection of microfilm cartridges toward full coverage and to study the problem of still more practicable and useful arrangements within that collection.

## MATERIALS FOR SUMERIAN LEXICON

*M. Civil*

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Mesopotamian culture, its basic unity notwithstanding, was always a bilingual culture. To describe it by using Akkadian sources alone, or Sumerian sources alone, would be as senseless as trying to study the French or Italian Middle Ages with Latin documents only or with documents written in Romance languages only. The semantic investigation of the Akkadian words for our Chicago Assyrian Dictionary needs the constant use of Sumerian materials. The most important materials of this kind are obviously the native lexical lists. They were reconstructed in the last twenty years as part of the CAD project, under the direction of Professor Landsberger. The publication of those lists, as a by-product of the CAD work, is done under the auspices of UNESCO by the Pontificio Istituto Biblico in Rome. The ninth volume is scheduled to appear in the near future. In addition to the lexical material, interesting Sumerian literary compositions have been appearing in increasing numbers in the last few years. Since the real meaning of a word comes alive only from its occurrence in a concrete context, a word in a lexical list being as dead as a plant in a herbarium, the collaborators of CAD are making an increasing use of the Sumerian literary material. In the absence of a Sumerian dictionary, to make the literary texts easily available, a computer-prepared concordance of the texts currently is being made. Thus far, over nine thousand lines have been processed. As the results have proved eminently useful, plans have been made to prepare a concordance of twelve thousand more lines in the next two years. Mr. G. Gragg has been working as technical adviser on this project for the last year.



## STRUCTURE OF EARLY MESOPOTAMIAN SOCIETY

*I. J. Gelb*

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The aim of this long-range project is to investigate the structure of the Sumero-Akkadian society over a span of about one thousand years, from its historical beginnings around 3000 B.C. to the end of the Third Dynasty of Ur.

While they remain to be corroborated by a more exhaustive treatment of the sources, some general conclusions have been reached up to now: The most ancient Mesopotamian economy was essentially rural and was concentrated in large households (manors, estates) owned by the ruler, temples, and nobles. The economy was private and based on family ownership. The land was not owned exclusively by the state (king) or temples, as generally claimed by scholars who believe that the economy of ancient Mesopotamia was either etatistic or ecclesiastic. The king bought land like any private individual, while the temples owned land given to them by the king or the nobles. The large households were run with the help of "serfs," who received their subsistence in the form of rations of barley, oil, and clothing. Independent craftsmen and real wages were unknown. The institution of slavery was very limited. All this changed radically between the end of the Ur III period and Old Babylonian times. The growing urbanization of the country brought about a rise of industry and an increased number of artisans who were free to work for wages, and the redistribution of land as a result of Amorite invasions created a new class of small peasants who paid taxes and owed service to the state. While in the older periods major productive forces were controlled by the state, temples, and large landholders, by the Old Babylonian period the major production seems to have been achieved by small landholders and artisans.

## SOCIETY AND ECONOMY OF SIPPAR IN THE TIME OF HAMMURABI

*Rivkah Harris*

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The first and major goal of the Sippar project will be achieved this summer. The comprehensive files on the Sippar material, including the information from some four hundred additional texts, have been completed. An analysis of the data from the some fifteen hundred documents from Sippar will be ready for publication at this time.

The richness and complexity of the material were such that the scope of our analysis has had to be curtailed and limited to a slightly less comprehensive study than originally envisioned.

This publication will concentrate on certain essential aspects of the society and economy of Sippar, such as the great organizations, the temples and the administrative and military institutions, their personnel and functions. The social texture of Sippar as revealed in the family, slavery, and special classes of women (this last a special feature of the Old Babylonian period) will be discussed at length. Other chapters will deal with merchants and trade, agriculture, and the occupations of Sipparians.

Some lists will be included: the names of the *naditu* women, the geographical and topographical names, and a typological list of the Sippar texts.

## THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS

*Elizabeth B. Hauser, Editorial Secretary*

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The formal publication program of the Oriental Institute came to a virtual standstill while the editorial office devoted most of the year to a *Festschrift* in honor of Professor Benno Landsberger. The occasion was the seventy-fifth birthday of this most distinguished and still very active scholar. Characteristically, we were not able to produce the book in time for the birthday celebration in April. At the moment of writing it is hoped that it will be off the press by the autumn of 1965. It is No. 16 in our "Assyriological Studies" series.

The only new book that appeared in 1964/65 is *Medinet Habu* Volume VII ("OIP" XCIII), the last of the Epigraphic Survey's series presenting the reliefs and inscriptions of the mortuary temple of Ramses III.

Two books which had been out of print were again made available: *Key Plans Showing Locations of Theban Temple Decorations* ("OIP" LVI), by Harold Hayden Nelson, and *Stratified Cylinder Seals from the Diyala Region* ("OIP" LXXII), by Henri Frankfort.

Three lengthy works are in press, but their publication dates are yet to be announced: *Studies in Arabic Literary Papyri* Volume II ("OIP" LXXVI), by Nabia Abbott; *Nippur* Volume I ("OIP" LXXVIII), by Donald E. McCown and Richard C. Haines; *Private Houses and Graves in the Diyala Region* ("OIP" LXXXVIII), by Pinhas Delougaz, Harold D. Hill, and Seton Lloyd.

To brighten this rather dull report we may proudly mention several new titles of more general interest: *Ancient Mesopotamia: Portrait of a Dead Civilization* by A. Leo Oppenheim; *Land behind Baghdad: A History of Settlement on the Diyala Plains* by Robert M. Adams; *Signs and Wonders upon Pharaoh: A History of American Egyptology* by John A. Wilson; and *Thebes of the Pharaohs: Pattern of Every City* by Charles F. Nims. Dr. Nims's book was published in London by Elek Productions, Ltd., and in New York by Stein and Day.



## THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM

*P. P. Delougaz, Curator*

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In addition to our long-established practice of acquainting Oriental Institute members and Museum visitors with the latest finds of the Institute's field expeditions and with recent acquisitions from other sources, we aimed during the past year to support the public lecture series with appropriate temporary exhibits. In sustaining this active program of special exhibits during the past year, the regular Museum staff was greatly helped by the skilful work of our enthusiastic and devoted volunteers, Mrs. G. Corson Ellis, Mrs. John Livingood, and Mrs. Theodore D. Tieken, who mended and restored most of the broken pottery vases that were to be shown.

The largest and most ambitious of the new special exhibitions is that of the latest season's finds by Professor Keith Seele in Nubia. All the objects displayed in the previous special exhibit of Nubian finds (mentioned in the 1963/64 report) were removed and a completely new exhibition set up and finished in time for his lecture on February 17, 1965. The importance of individual finds which are included in this display are discussed by Dr. Seele in his section on the Nubian excavations during the winter of 1963-64 in the present report.

A second special exhibit was arranged to coincide with the lecture given by Professor Helene J. Kantor and the writer on March 31, 1965, on the results of the excavations at Khirbat al-Karak during the summer of 1964. Miss Kantor played a major part in planning and arranging that exhibit. Since the second temporary display of recent finds from Nubia still occupies the whole of the Palestinian Hall, and since interest in the Palestinian antiquities is often expressed by visitors to the Museum, a selection of Palestinian objects from our permanent collection was again put on display adjoining the special exhibit of Khirbat al-Karak finds at the east end of the Babylonian Hall.

Special exhibits were also arranged in connection with the lecture of Père R. de Vaux on May 5,



*Detail of engraving on dagger*

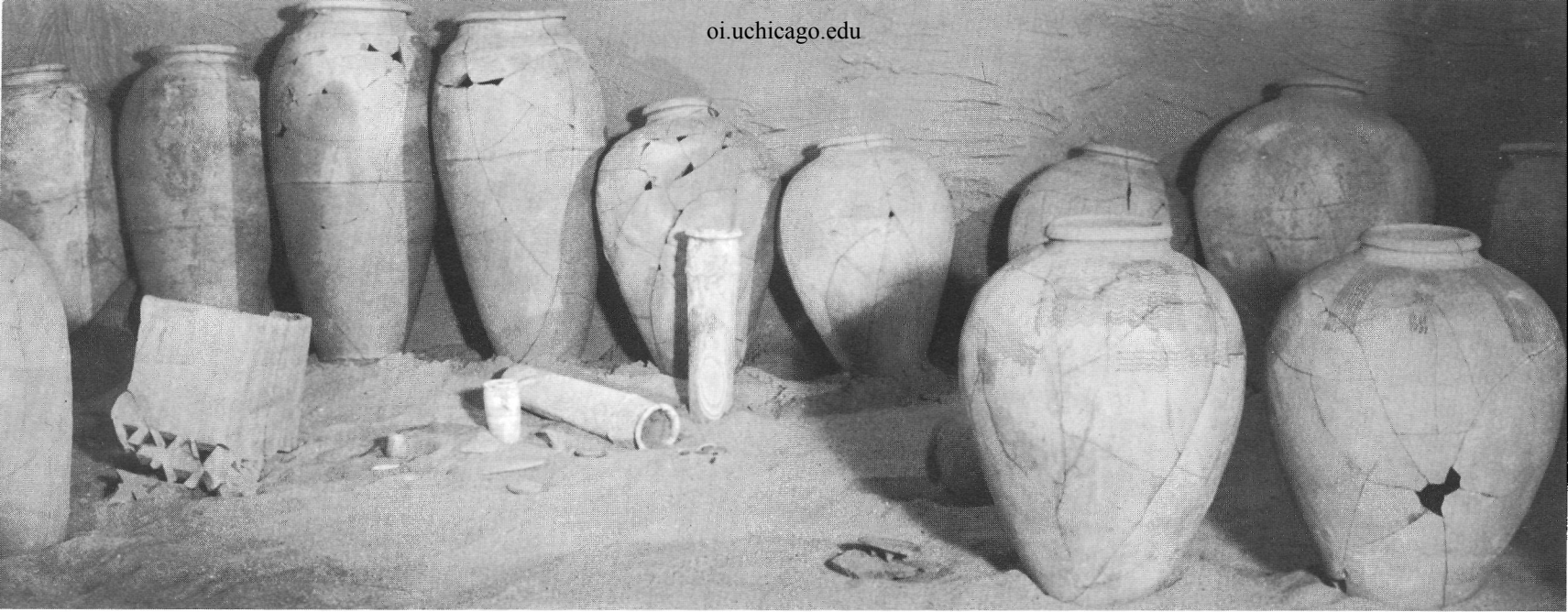
*Ceremonial dagger from Luristan, Iran.  
Early First Millennium B.C. (Gift of  
Mrs. Khalil Rabenu, New York.)*



1965, and Professor Hans G. Güterbock on May 19, 1965.

On the occasion of the one hundred and seventy-fifth meeting of the American Oriental Society and the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature held on the campus of the University of Chicago between April 13 and 15, 1965, two special exhibits were installed in the Iranian Hall, one consisting of representative finds from Chogha Mish and the other containing an excellent collection of Iranian pottery of many periods, formerly in the possession of Professor Ernst Herzfeld, part of which is now permanently in the Oriental Institute's collection and part of which was kindly lent us for the occasion by the Chicago Museum of Natural History.

In addition to the exhibition of objects, a number of Oriental Institute publications were put on display in the Museum in proximity to the objects which are published in them. During the week of the meetings of the American Oriental Society and the Society of Biblical Literature, a special display of Oriental Institute publications and of University of Chicago Press books dealing with the ancient Near East were shown by the Museum at the Center for Continuing Education, which served as headquarters for the meetings.



During the past year the archeological laboratory in the basement of the Oriental Institute has been largely furnished through a special grant obtained by the Director from the National Science Foundation. It is being used for research and instruction as intended. But the pace of the growth of our collections is such that, in spite of this much welcomed additional space, our working facilities and especially the display areas are strained to the limit.

*A reconstruction of the entrance shaft into Tomb at Adenden in Nubia. The vessels are shown in their original positions, but have been mended in Chicago.*

*Part of temple relief, Hermopolis, Middle Egypt. Reign of Akhenaton (about 1372-1355 B.C.). (Gift of Mrs. Norbert Schimmel. New York.)*



*Spouted jar from the Mazandaran region, Northern Iran.*



During the 1964-65 year, 43,817 visitors were registered in the Museum. The number of guided tours was 290, most of them guided by Miss Leila Ibrahim, others by Miss Rosemary Clark, Mr. Robert Kennedy, and some of our graduate students and academic staff; 87 groups who visited the Museum did not require the services of a docent. Other normal activities continued on approximately the same scale as in recent years. No special funds for enlarging the Museum's collections through purchase were available, but a few important objects were again presented by faithful and generous friends.

In the spring of 1966, the Oriental Institute Museum, together with the other museums in the city of Chicago, will serve as host to the sixty-first annual meeting of the American Association of Museums. To the rich and varied program which is being planned for this event, the Oriental Institute Museum hopes to contribute its part.



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Income July 1, 1964-June 30, 1965		
Members' dues and gifts .....		<u>31,125.20</u>
TOTAL .....		\$56,128.53
EXPENDITURES, July 1, 1964-June 30, 1965		
Support of Oriental Institute activities .....	\$21,000.00	
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Educational Services, Inc. ....	58.80	
Miscellaneous .....	101.64	
TOTAL .....	\$29,045.55	<u>\$29,045.55</u>
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*COVER: Impression from a chalcedony cylinder seal, 1½" high, found by the late Dr. Erich F. Schmidt in a sanctuary at Surkh-Dum-i Luri, Iran. The final report on the Oriental Institute excavations in Luristan is now being prepared.*