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# THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

REPORT FOR 1965/66



## TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

The ebb and flow of daily events usually lacks perceptible pattern. Most of us follow it passively, as a chronicle of undigested occurrences and conflicting reports that impinges all too often on our personal lives but that lacks larger shape or meaning. News, all too typically, consists in the main of the violent and disastrous; we expect to hear or read almost instantaneously of the “body count,” but for mature analysis of the forces that gathered before a storm, as well as of its long-term outcome, we are content to await the leisurely, retrospective study of the historian. The changing context of events, in other words, generally is overshadowed by the dramatic incident.

If this Annual Report were meant only as a chronicle in the limited sense, it would be sufficient to record the Oriental Institute’s major activities as incidents—more or less dramatic—scattered over the past year’s span. Most of the individual contributions that follow do precisely that. But it seems appropriate to preface these accounts with an assessment of the changing context within which the Institute as a whole seems to be operating. Writing as a participant rather than a passive observer, and about trends still in progress rather than safely remote in time, I hope it will be understood that at best this can only be a subjective evaluation on many parts of which there may not be full agreement among my colleagues.

In terms of the Oriental Institute’s research interest in the antecedents and historical development of the great civilizations of the Near East, it seems to me that the major changes over the past generation or so interlock with one another to form a harmonious pattern, and one which affects our operations profoundly and at an accelerating pace. In brief, what was initially an effort

in splendid and sometimes dangerous isolation now has ceased to be so. To use our immense strength in academic staff and research facilities effectively under the new conditions, we need to recognize them and accommodate ourselves to their impact.

To begin with, the number of institutions that are seriously engaged in teaching and research in our field has grown mightily since World War II. In large part, this has been stimulated by interest in the contemporary Near East, encouraged either through language-training grants under the National Defense Education Act or through Ford Foundation support for the formation of specialized area research centers. But these programs have frequently broadened to include long-range historical and even archeological studies. Then, too, the availability of foundation support for field research, primarily in the social sciences, has led increasing numbers of scholars in those disciplines to come to grips personally with the languages and historical roots of the modern Near East. Finally, recent years have seen a prodigiously increased proportion of college students entering graduate studies of all kinds, at state universities as well as private ones, and if the impulse from Sputnik was felt initially in the natural sciences, the spreading waves from that shock now have reached into the most recondite fields of the humanities. It follows that particularly the younger scholars in our field often tend to be less strongly affiliated with any one institution than with the widening network of intercommunicating specialists at many institutions that constitutes their discipline. It is not easy to maintain our traditional sense of continuity or of organic unity of research design in the face of this rising spirit of personal independence and mobility, but we must learn to do so.

A second way in which growth is accompanied by a reduction in isolation concerns our relations with the University of which we are a part. As a research enterprise, the Institute probably will always have distinctive features that reflect the organizing genius of James Henry Breasted and the generous support he received from John D. Rockefeller, Jr. But all around us now, and at times even overlapping with us, are programs whose intellectual and administrative boundaries with our own are increasingly obscure and perhaps artificial. Archeological studies of the Classical world, focusing not only on mainland Greece but on "our" prov-

ince of Anatolia, are carried out by the Departments of Classics and Art. A young Byzantine historian dealing with the same area recently has been appointed by the Department of History. On our other flank, this University is fortunate in having one of the country's major programs in southern Asian studies, drawing strength from linguistics, history, art, anthropology, political science, and recently having begun to cultivate an archeological interest as well. Where does the line between us lie? Surely not with some geographic barrier or frontier which was repeatedly overcome or swept aside by historic movements and currents of influence. The line, if there need be one, can only shift with the spectrum of problems on which we choose to work and sources we can learn to control. David Pingree's interest in ancient astronomy, for example, causes him to brush the traditional areal distinctions away altogether and to divide his work between Arabic manuscripts and Sanskrit horoscopes.

It might be added that his geographic breadth in choice of problem seems to be a symptomatic one. Among colleagues from allied departments in the Oriental Institute who are engaged in a similar approach, mention might also be made of the joint work of Muhsin Mahdi and Herrlee Creel on Arab-Chinese seafaring interconnections during the Middle Ages. Perhaps it is not too wide of the mark to suggest that the intellectual tone of current Asian historical research is being set increasingly by William McNeill's *Rise of the West*, with its emphasis on the interrelatedness of developments across huge areas and deep cultural barriers, whereas the historical concerns of a generation or so ago found their fullest and most systematic expression in Arnold Toynbee's account of the rise and fall of individual civilizations as a repetitive, largely autochthonous process.

The related development within the University of Chicago which is of greatest importance for the Oriental Institute has been the formation of a strong Center for Middle Eastern Studies, in part with support from the Ford Foundation. Vigorously and imaginatively led by a historian specializing in the development of the Arab world over the last two centuries or so, William R. Polk, it brings together around a frame of common needs and interests scholars from the Oriental Institute and the Departments of Oriental Languages, History, Geography,

Anthropology, and Political Science. Again, our task is not to define a jurisdictional line with respect to the work of this Center, and then to defend our citadel against all comers, but instead actively to seek ways to facilitate its growth as well as our own. In this case as in the others mentioned above, the substantial convergence of our interests is an opportunity to be seized upon and not a threat. The only threat, in fact, lies in our failing to take full advantage of the breadth and depth of scholarship which have grown up around us in fields allied to our own.

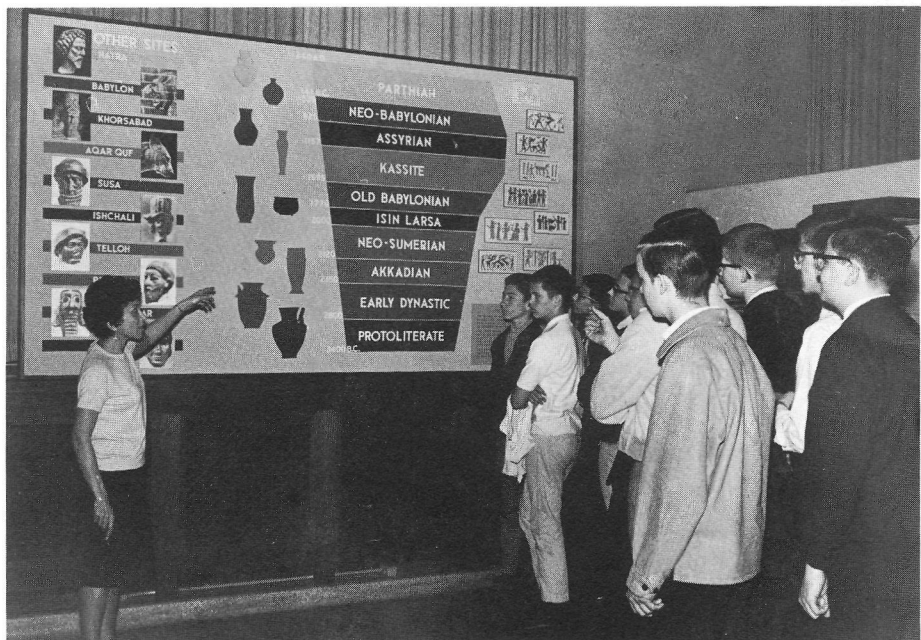
The third respect in which intercommunication is emerging as an increasingly important requirement involves the conduct of our own individual research. More and more frequently the urgent and important problems turn out to be ones on which progress can only come with a collaborative approach, involving the combined efforts of specialists in several disciplines. I. J. Gelb, recently appointed Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor, for example, finds it useful to consult with an institutional economist as a part of his long-term study of the agricultural economy of third millennium Mesopotamia. Hans Güterbock (recently awarded the honor of the Colvin Research Professorship for 1966-67) and Miguel Civil, working on translation and grammatical problems involving Hittite and Sumerian, respectively, begin to speak quite naturally with the new and specialized vocabulary of the computer programmers with whom they must deal. Pierre Delougaz and Maurits van Loon, on excavations in Iran and Syria, press down in time to the thresholds of the historic period with the contributions of specialized analysts from the natural sciences like those which Robert Braidwood has pioneered in the study of the beginnings of agriculture. Robert Braidwood himself, through the accident of the discovery of worked copper in his most recent early village excavations, turns to the metallurgist for an understanding of the annealing processes that may have been used on his specimens and of their contribution to the history of this vital industry. Leo Oppenheim's studies of ancient glass technology similarly involve him with specialists from the Corning Museum of Glass, who contribute their knowledge of the chemistry of glass manufacture in return for his of the ancient Mesopotamian texts describing the process in the somewhat magical terms in which it was known at the time. "To-

getherness," to be sure, doesn't solve all problems; in fact, it produces some new ones, particularly at the interpersonal level. But at least a selective substitution of a collaborative approach for work in isolation clearly represents a powerful key for opening doors which heretofore have been closed to us.

Paralleling these important changes in the scholarly and institutional context in which the Institute operates are others of comparable importance—but more recent vintage—affecting its relations with the public. The problem of isolation, in fact, is essentially the same whether we speak of research or of exhibits and programs for visitors and supporters. In both cases, the retreat into narrow specialization can destroy the senses of relevance and proportion. It is no surprise to find that Breasted, with his commanding vision of what the Institute ought to become, was not only the author of a basic high school text on ancient Egypt that still is in widespread use more than sixty years after it was written but was also insistent from the beginning that the Institute's research must go hand in hand with a public museum. Perhaps there was in this an element of moral responsibility to the countries which gave us permission to excavate, since at the very least a museum would provide a glass-cased, permanent storehouse for the objects we were allowed to bring home. But the more basic moral responsibility he felt was to the entire educative process which the University symbolized. That process is always a dialogue, an act of intercommunication: to teach is also to learn.

Well, what have we been doing about it? The last year has seen the inauguration of a three-year development program which points the way toward taking these responsibilities seriously. With the advice and encouragement of two members of our Visiting Committee, in particular Mr. Press Hodgkins and Mrs. Theodore Tieken, at least a beginning has been made on some of the more urgent and obvious improvements in our museum and educational programs that will help us more closely to approximate Breasted's vision and to bring it home to greater numbers of people.

One of the main problems with museum exhibits as large and specialized as those in the Oriental Institute has always been to make them intelligible to visitors. This need is filled only in part by labels, for the real problem is not to identify individual objects on which the eye happens to fall but to relate them one



*Miss Leila Ibrahim, Senior Docent, conducting one of the many Museum tours.*

to another and to explain the broader historical and cultural context from which they come. Particularly for visitors coming to the Oriental Institute in groups, of whom there were more than 10,000 during the last year, a forest of labels would neither explain what our exhibits mean nor communicate any sense of enthusiasm about them.

For this reason, a number of steps were taken during the last year under the initiative of Mrs. John Livingood, our new and very active Museum Secretary, to establish a long-needed program of volunteer guides. Starting in January, 1966, an eight-week course of training was instituted in which lectures by members of the Institute staff alternated with explanatory tours of the galleries under the guidance of the Institute's docent, Miss Leila Ibrahim. Nineteen volunteer guides now are doing yeoman service, and plans have been made to schedule a further training course for



additional volunteers in the fall. With the availability of guides, plans also are now being made by a tour committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Edward Hutchens of Hinsdale to arrange with program chairmen of various groups throughout the Chicago area for conducted tours of the museum. Such programs will also include the showing of archeological films and luncheon at the nearby Quadrangle Club. Another step has been taken to meet the frequently expressed requests of our visitors for mementos of our exhibits which they can keep or use as gifts: an expanded sale area currently is under construction in the Institute foyer. Here we have always been limited in the past to a few casts of objects, postcards, and books. With a wider selection, including well-executed copies of unique objects and jewelry in our own collection, there is every reason to expect an appreciable increase not merely in good will but also in our present income from this source. Mrs. Theodore Tieken will be in charge of arrangements for this activity and, when the new sales desk is finished, it will be staffed with volunteers. As part of the same effort, discussions are underway with representatives of the Chicago Public Schools, looking toward a better co-ordination of our exhibits and guiding services with the needs of their curriculum.

Of course the problem of exhibits only begins with the availability of fine original collections and of qualified guides to explain them. Again in a sense, the crucial questions are those of context. What should exhibits be designed to show? To what audience are they addressed? In the sense not only of physical display but of intellectual and aesthetic content, what is their optimal setting? Such questions are not only difficult and expensive to answer, but take us into realms where it is difficult with present resources even to know what answers are feasible or to project means to arrive at them. Ultimately we may wish to consider a comprehensive re-designing of our exhibit galleries around an entirely different set of themes than the present regional subdivisions. In the meantime, however, a modest and experimental beginning has been made, both to explore possibilities in a tentative (and relatively inexpensive) way and to provide a more adequate public record of some of our current research projects. For this purpose an artist and an additional preparator now have been employed. A new exhibit of

our excavations at Nippur opened in December. By the fall of 1966 we anticipate that a more ambitious new exhibit, outlining the findings of the Braidwood Prehistoric Project from almost two decades of investigations of the beginnings of agriculture and village life, will be ready for its first public showing.

A further step toward explaining the program and purposes of the Oriental Institute to a wider audience was the completion of our documentary film, "The Egyptologists." Filmed at Chicago House in Luxor and at the Institute's excavations in Egyptian



*Staff Members of the Oriental Institute who designed and executed the Nippur Exhibit, from left to right, Robert Hanson, Ursula Schneider, Richard C. Haines, Marilyn Buccellati, Catherine Brandel, Robert Ahlstrom.*

and Sudanese Nubia by Charles Sharp and narrated by Charlton Heston, a preliminary version was screened for members and their guests in October, 1965. After substantial further cutting and editing, the first final prints were made available the following spring and so far have been seen only by a limited number of very appreciative alumni audiences. By fall we hope to have completed arrangements for the general release of the film (which now has been awarded a CINE "Golden Eagle," the equivalent of an Oscar in the documentary film field) both for club groups and for educational purposes.

We are fortunate, I would argue in summary, in that we deal in a rising market. Certain aspects of that situation, such as the increasing competition among universities for the still-scarce talents of Near Eastern scholars, from time to time will present challenges to us. But the opportunities—for greatly expanded horizons of research, for the educational and cultural enrichment of a wide audience—more than offset these challenges. This is a time, after all, when the Known World of the American traveler finally has moved eastward from Europe to include at least Egypt, Turkey, Israel, and Lebanon. In fact we are making a modest contribution to that expansion of frontiers ourselves, in the form of a trip to archeological and historic monuments of Turkey which the Institute is sponsoring for thirty or so of its supporters. Hence it is not a matter of pride or even complacency to note that the Institute's membership has increased something over 50 per cent in the past year. We have a long way to go. It will need our best ingenuity and all our efforts to get there. We hope we can count on your interest and support in this exciting enterprise.

ROBERT M. ADAMS, *Director*

## A COPTIC LITURGICAL BOOK FROM QASR EL-WIZZ IN NUBIA

*George R. Hughes*

The Oriental Institute's last obligation in Egypt arising from the emergency created by the building of the High Dam at As-suan and the consequent flooding of Nubia was discharged in October–November, 1965, with the excavation of the Christian monastery of Qasr el-Wizz under the direction of Dr. George Scanlon.

This small monastery, about 11 miles south of the great Abu Simbel temple and half a mile north of the Egyptian-Sudanese border, was all that remained to be investigated in the large concession so successfully excavated by Professor Keith C. Seele. In fact, Dr. Seele had already cleared a portion of the monastery in the spring of 1964 at the close of his last full-scale season.

The monastery itself, dating to the eighth to twelfth centuries A.D., is well preserved and interesting in its constructional features and yielded some fine decorated pottery, an example of which is pictured herewith. But the most dramatic find was a small parchment book found in a monk's cell.

The book is carefully written and almost perfectly preserved even to the elaborate crosses in red, green, and black ink on the cover-leaf and on the back of the last page. The text in Coptic, the last stage of the ancient Egyptian language written with the Greek alphabet, covers only 31 pages but consists of two separate compositions. Strangely enough, the ancient book-binder got one sheet or signature out of place toward the end of the book, and one wonders whether the users of the precious missal ever noticed that something was wrong.

The first composition is embellished with marginal illustrations in colored inks. They are whimsical but neither illustrative of anything in the adjacent text nor in keeping with the solemnity of the subject matter. On two pages egret-like birds peck at bunches of grapes the stems of which are tails of initial letters of lines of the text. Another margin contains an open-mouthed crocodile with four closely bunched tiny bird feet. On another page a human face, which is drawn just like one of the commonest of



*Pottery decorated with swallows from the Christian monastery of Qasr el-Wizz*

hieroglyphs of earlier centuries, is apparently present solely to wear as a headpiece the Coptic form of the letter A which happens to be the initial letter of one of the lines of the text (see cover).

The central theme of both compositions in the book is the cross of Christ, and the setting for both is the same. Jesus was seated

one day on the Mount of Olives with his apostles about him. In the first composition Jesus was asked by Peter to reveal the “mystery of the cross,” and he replied that he would bring the cross with him on the day of the last judgment and that it would stand at his right hand. When the judgment was completed, it would again ascend into heaven and all the righteous would ascend with it. In the second composition Jesus sang for the apostles a succession of short hymns to the cross. These lines from one hymn are characteristic:

Rise up, arise, O holy Cross,  
And lift me up, O Cross.

He asked the apostles to respond with “Amen” after each hymn, and when the text was liturgically read—perhaps on Good Friday—the worshipers no doubt responded in the same way.

The contents of the book *per se* are not very significant, for they are pious inventions, but this genre of text is unknown among the vast quantities of Coptic and Greek texts of the Egyptian church. However, there has been in the Berlin Museum since the last century a parchment book in the Nubian language of this area, and it begins with precisely the same text as the first composition in our Coptic book. The Nubian book was dedicated in A.D. 973 to the church at Serra East, a site just above the Egyptian-Sudanese border, less than 15 miles south of Qasr el-Wizz. Our Coptic book can also be dated by the style of writing and other features to the tenth century.

The second part of the Berlin Nubian text is not the same as the second composition in our Coptic book, but during the Oriental Institute’s excavations at Serra East in 1963–64 another tenth-century parchment book in the Nubian language was found. It contains a text of the same genre as the Berlin book, but the two texts are far from being duplicates. They are eulogies of the cross cast in a long series of short similes such as:

The Cross is the staff of the lame.  
The Cross is the leader of the blind.

One would expect that these three texts centered about the cross, two in Nubian and one in Coptic, would be translations of originals composed in Greek, as is commonly the case with

Coptic church texts. However, no such Greek text is known. This may be an accident of preservation, but one wonders whether the compositions were not originally in Coptic and translated into the local Nubian. In any case, it is a curious fact that these texts of a genre otherwise unknown should have been the property of two churches or monasteries a few miles apart some distance up the Nile in relatively inaccessible Nubia.

## FORTRESS AT SEMNA SOUTH IN NUBIA

*Louis V. Žabkar*

Arrangements have been made for the Oriental Institute to conduct two final expeditions during the period 1966–68 in that area of Nubia soon to be flooded by the waters of the new Assuan High Dam. An international team of scholars, directed by Dr. Louis V. Žabkar, will excavate the last unexplored fortress built by the Egyptian pharaohs in a strategic area through which passed military and commercial routes to northern and central Sudan. In this area, where the Nile is forced through a narrow channel, three fortresses, known as Semna East, Semna West, and Semna South, were built. Semna East and Semna West were excavated by the Harvard University–Museum of Fine Arts (Boston) Expedition under the direction of Professor George A. Reisner in 1924–28.

The expedition at Semna South hopes to find some information bearing on the question why this fortress was built on flat ground, less than a mile from Semna East and Semna West, which enjoyed the defensive advantage of having been built on granite rocks overlooking the Nile. A preliminary survey of the site made by Dr. Žabkar in January confirmed some unique features of the construction of Semna South, such as the unusually wide ditch around the walls and a second ditch surrounding the glacis as well as a stairway tunneled beneath the glacis toward the Nile. While the exact purpose and function of the fortress is uncertain,



*Semna South, site of the proposed campaign in Nubia during 1966–68*

its location and the nature of its structures could be interpreted as indicating that it was a dependency of the other two fortresses or even that it was a caravan base.

Between the ninth and eleventh centuries, christianized Nubians moved within the walls of the fortress and built some houses and a community church within the enclosure. A small Christian cemetery and a small apsidal church have been found outside the southern wall of the fortress.

To the north of the fortress is an extensive cemetery which contains burials of Meroitic and X-group cultures and, very likely, some burials of the New Kingdom.

It is anticipated that the excavation of Semna South and its surrounding cemeteries will add to the knowledge of the political and cultural interchange between Egyptian and African civilizations and that a study of the remains from the cemeteries will provide some information on the problem of the racial relationship between Meroitic and X-group people.



## THE EPIGRAPHIC SURVEY

*Charles Francis Nims, Field Director*

We might try to summarize the work of each season by calculating the area of wall surface for which drawings were completed. Yet this would not give a true picture; a square yard of relief at the High Gate at Medinet Habu is generally less difficult than a square foot of relief in the Tomb Chapel of Kheruef. At both we are approaching the end of the work.

On the High Gate the reliefs as yet uncopied are in relatively inaccessible positions, and it is necessary to erect scaffolds of 30 to 45 feet in height to gain access to them. The supply of scaffolding limited the work in the last season to one artist and one epigrapher at a time, and the same limitations will apply to the remaining work. In the Tomb Chapel of Kheruef there are only a few smaller areas on which the work is not completed or well advanced, but the remaining parts need extensive study by the artists and epigraphers working together to recover the record.

One of the problems at Kheruef was the sizable number of fragments which had fallen from the walls and which were found in the various clearances. Though at first the locating of these in relation to the extant reliefs seemed almost hopeless, careful study by members of the staff has determined the location of most of them, and it is expected that few if any will have to be published separately. The one remaining problem in this regard is the more than a hundred fragments of vertical inscriptions from the shattered columns in the transverse hall. It is believed that the relative position of most of these can be determined even though it may be impossible to ascertain from which columns the inscriptions came.

It is expected that the work on the Temple of Khonsu at Karnak will be resumed in the 1966-67 season. Approximately one-fourth to one-third of the reliefs executed under Herihor in the court and the first hypostyle hall were drawn before 1948, when the work there was suspended to give full attention to Medinet Habu. The additional commitment for the recording of the Beit el-Wali Temple of Ramses II took the major part of the time of three artists for two seasons early in this decade, and the additional

commitment for the Tomb Chapel of Kheruef has added to the delay in resuming work at the Temple of Khonsu. By the end of the coming season we should be able to give our full attention to it.

The staff for the past season, in addition to the Field Director, consisted of Edward Wentz and Carl DeVries as Egyptologists, Reginald Coleman, Leslie Greener, Michael Barnwell, and Eric Morby as artists, and John Healey, our maintenance engineer and senior staff member. Barnwell and Morby have left the expedition, and their replacements will be appointed during the summer. David Larkin, a graduate student in Egyptology, will join the staff as Graduate Assistant during the season. Labib Habachi, whose visit to America precluded any work with us the past season, will spend another two months with us in his study of certain problems in connection with the Tomb Chapel of Kheruef.

The pigments mentioned in the previous report have not as yet had their final analysis. This is because of accidents which could, by those sensationally minded, be used as a basis for another "curse" story. One sample was to be tested by spectrographic analysis by the laboratory of the Department of Antiquities. In the process the retort broke and the electronic apparatus was burned out. The specimen was then taken to the National Scientific Laboratory in Cairo, with a similar result in the analyzing equipment.

During the season we had a considerable number of visitors, some staying at Chicago House, who were friends of the Oriental Institute and the University of Chicago. We hope that others who are in the Near East will visit Luxor to see its unparalleled antiquities and to meet our staff and see the progress of our work.

## THE EUPHRATES VALLEY EXPEDITION

*Maurits van Loon*

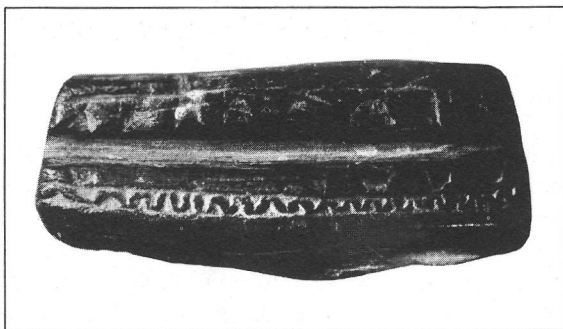
For three months during the fall of 1965 the newly formed Euphrates Valley Expedition excavated the early village mound near Mureybat on the Syrian Euphrates. This first season's work was made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation. Dr. Maurits van Loon served as director; Dr. James H. Skinner, anthropologist from Columbia University, as assistant director; Rudolph H. Dornemann from the Oriental Institute as historical archeologist; and Mrs. Ghislaine J. van Loon as photographer. The expedition was greatly helped by the Syrian government representatives, Mr. Ali Abu-Assaf and Dr. Toufic Solyman, who worked as full-time archeologists along with the staff.

Tell Mureybat had been noted during a survey of the area to be flooded by a proposed dam in the Euphrates, 75 miles east of Aleppo. A vertical sounding, undertaken in 1964, had shown that two-thirds of this thirty-foot-high mound were built up of human occupation remains without any pottery, indicating a date before 6000 B.C. (the remaining one-third represents the remains of a medieval Islamic fortification).

With the help of 30 local workers (for whom archeological work was new), excavations were extended horizontally from the 1964 sounding to cover 2,400 square feet on the western slope of Tell Mureybat.

As a result, we now know that the early village underwent an uninterrupted development through 17 levels, each distinguished by connected building remains or by continuous bands of ash.

The lower levels contained round houses up to 4 feet long, with walls founded in two instances on disused querns (grinding stones) turned upside down. Red clay walls had melted down and formed a low ridge around the edge of the paved floors. The middle levels were honeycombed by round, vertical pits, lined with red clay and filled with ash and rounded river pebbles. Presumably these had served for the roasting of wild grain, a prerequisite for grinding. A cache of about 100 seeds was found in the vicinity of the fire pits.



*Rim fragment of stone bowl, shown actual size, from the pre-pottery settlement at Mureybat.*

Typical of the upper levels were rectangular or square houses, built with a curious technique. Limestone had been cut into loaf-shaped pieces and these had been laid like bricks, with red clay covering them on all sides.

The best preserved square house measured only  $12 \times 12$  feet, and was divided into four diminutive rooms of  $5 \times 5$  feet. The rooms had no doors—they were apparently accessible from above—but between two pairs of rooms there were tiny peep-holes. Near a hearth-like depression in the corner of one room the jaw of a large carnivore was partly embedded in the wall. Cattle horns had actually been built into other walls of the same level, calling to mind the foundation sacrifices of much later times.

In the top two building levels, which had burned fiercely (probably in warfare), one could recognize the emplacements both of vertical wooden posts, which had held up the clay superstructure of the houses, and of round wooden beams placed horizontally over the stone wall foundations and covered on all sides with clay.

Out of 70,000 chipped stone pieces excavated at Mureybat about 10 per cent had been retouched to serve as tools: heavy scrapers, “adzes,” “picks,” and “sledges,” perhaps for woodworking, were made of chert (coarse-grained flint) which is abundant among pebbles in the Euphrates River. Light tools, such as burins for chiseling bone and stone, perforators for boring holes in leather, end scrapers for the processing of hides, sickle blades for the

harvesting of wild grain, and tanged points for hunting were made of true flint, balls of which are thickly strewn over the hills nearby. From the middle level up flint pieces outnumbered chert.

Ground stone tools consisted mostly of querns and mortars. Flint balls with traces of use may have been rolled around inside the querns to grind wild grain after roasting. Cylindrical pebbles with traces of use at both ends were apparently used as pestles to crush pigments and the like in the mortars.

The rim of a bowl from one of the upper levels, carved out of soft dark brown stone, carried a wavy band in relief very much like a stone bowl fragment found by Dr. Robert J. Braidwood in the Prehistoric Project's 1964 excavations at Çayönü in Turkey. Limestone disks, perhaps also connected with wild grain processing, showed clear traces of having been fashioned with flint knives out of soft limestone.

A zoologist specializing in this period, Dr. Dexter Perkins, Jr., from Harvard University, studied a sample of identifiable animal bones from each level in the field. Throughout the sequence of levels he found the same animals represented in the same proportions: 30 per cent were wild cattle, 30 per cent were onager (a wild relative of horse and donkey), and 30 per cent were gazelle. These conclusions are, of course, subject to verification by fuller study of the faunal remains, now to be undertaken by Dr. Pierre Ducos of the French Centre National des Recherches Scientifiques.

A representative collection of vegetal remains was collected by floating soil sample. Careful scrutiny of the vertical faces of the excavation yielded eight additional groups of charred seeds. These are now being studied by Dr. Willem van Zeist at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. Some seeds appeared to be from lentil, bitter vetch, wild barley and other grasses; many of the seeds were from wild einkorn wheat, but no domesticated grains have been recognized to date. Wild barley is known to grow in low, rather desert-like country (such as that around Mureybat), but wild einkorn wheat nowadays does not occur below an altitude of 1,500 feet.

Twenty-one carbon samples were collected. These are now being measured at the University of Pennsylvania in order to obtain radiocarbon dates.

Earlier in this century excavators simply assumed permanent settlements to have been based on the domestication of animals and cereals if they found such indirect evidence as querns and sickle blades. Since then, Dr. Braidwood and others have stressed the need for recovering actual animal and vegetal remains to prove this claim beyond doubt. From a number of sites, in Palestine especially, such direct evidence has remained strangely elusive until now. This has led Dr. Jean Perrot (the excavator of Mallaha in Palestine) to posit the existence of permanent settlements living entirely by hunting and the collecting of wild cereals.

If the rather extensive and well-preserved animal and vegetal remains from Mureybat should really contain no domesticated varieties at all, this would considerably strengthen Perrot's point of view.

For two weeks during the Euphrates Valley Expedition's 1965 season, part of the staff carried out a sounding at a Bronze Age city mound near Selenkehiye on the right bank of the Euphrates.

Tell Selenkehiye lies between the Euphrates and a gap in the hills which points the way to Aleppo and farther west to the Mediterranean. The mound is flat, but surrounded by low ridges from which large blocks of stone—presumably the remains of fortification walls—protrude at points where they have been cut through.

Recent bulldozing for the construction of irrigation channels had exposed three building levels with a total depth of 15 feet, founded on the gravel of the lower river terrace. The pottery on the surface ranges from Early to Late Bronze Age types, but seems to belong for the most part to the Middle Bronze Age, running very roughly from 2200 to 1500 B.C. Little is known so far about the turbulent beginnings of this period, which saw the emergence of powerful new groups like the Amorites.

An area of  $50 \times 50$  feet was cleared, exposing the floor and wall foundations of a large, probably public, building. The northern part was an open court. From there a doorway, with the stone door socket still in place, led into a wide shallow room. To the south was a narrow hall containing two recessed doorways which led off into small L-shaped rooms. The four piers framing these doorways formed the central feature of the building.

In the central aisle a vertical sounding was made to investigate the level underneath. After penetrating a layer of gray ash and red



*Central part of the Middle Bronze Age building at Selenkehiye, looking east toward the Euphrates. In the center, where two doors once faced each other, a sounding has been made to explore the level underneath.*

decayed brick, the sounding hit another clay floor with walls built on a different plan.

The finds from both levels are similar: the pottery includes many cream-colored, thin-walled goblets and footed bowls, with corrugation used as a surface decoration. There were a bronze knife blade fixed by rivets to its handle and a bronze toggle pin, i.e., a pin with a hole through it for a thread. Similar pottery and bronze finds were made at Hama in Syria in a level dated to *ca.* 2200–2000 B.C.

Most prolific among the finds were parts of baked clay figurines with round bases for the figurine to stand on. Some represented men with heavy necklaces, flat bodies and either a conical cap or a kind of crown. Most of them, however, seemed to represent females, with caricature-like noses, big eyes made of separate pellets of clay, and elaborate hairdos. The most complete ones show a large flat bun, long corkscrew curls in front of the ears and a fringe above the forehead.

The wheels of little chariots are also very common, and among the animal figurines two unmistakable horses turned up. This was rather exciting since this confirms that the horse had appeared in the Near East by the late third millennium B.C.

The results of this sounding were sufficiently encouraging to warrant the planning of future full-scale excavations at Selenkehiye, possibly as early as the spring of 1967.

*Left: Female head of baked clay, 2" high, found in lower Middle Bronze Age level at Selenkehiye.*

*Right: Horse head of baked clay, 2" high, found in lower Middle Bronze Age level at Selenkehiye.*





## THE HITTITE COMPUTER ANALYSIS PROJECT

*Hans G. Güterbock*

The writer has been working on a project of computer analysis of the Hittite language. The purpose of the program is twofold: on the one hand, to prepare a concordance of words as a basis for further lexicographical investigations; on the other, to collect and list certain peculiarities of spelling from which something may be learned about Hittite phonology. In order to keep the project to a manageable size, it has for the time being been limited to texts of the Old Hittite period (*ca.* 1650–1500 B.C.), among them the oldest Hittite texts in existence.

While funds for computer time and programming were provided by the Division of Humanities from the Linguistic Research budget, the Oriental Institute secured the help of Dr. Philo H. J. Houwink ten Cate, a Dutch Hittitologist, who spent the twelve months of 1965 here as Research Associate, during which time he assisted Mr. Güterbock in preparing the Hittite texts for the computer and in working out technical details with the programmer, Mr. Robert Ekstrom. At the end of 1965 Dr. Houwink ten Cate returned to the Netherlands, where he was appointed Professor of Ancient Near Eastern History in the University of Amsterdam. Thanks to a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies, however, it was possible to bring Professor Houwink ten Cate back to Chicago for a period of three months beginning June, 1966.

By the end of June, 1966, the corpus of Old Hittite texts had been transcribed and almost completely put on punch cards; the orthographic-phonological search program was ready to run; and the concordance program was in a fairly advanced stage of preparation.

## THE PREHISTORIC PROJECT

*Robert J. Braidwood, Field Director*

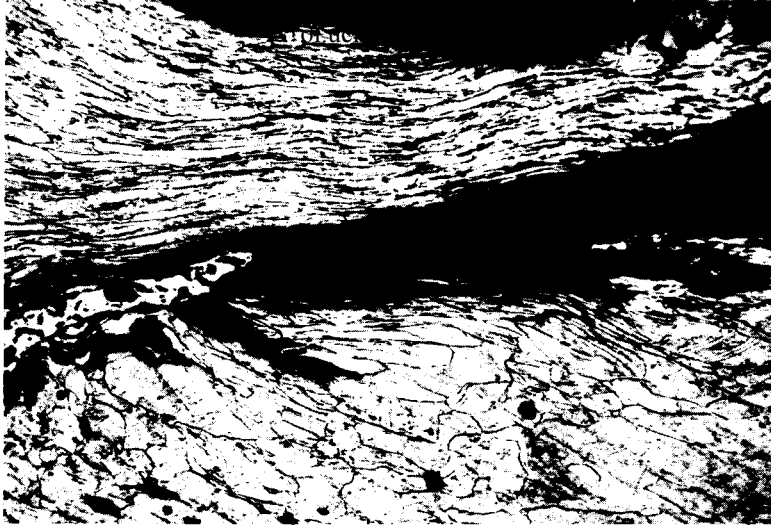
The Joint Prehistoric Project of the Prehistory Department of Istanbul University and the Oriental Institute has not undertaken field excavations since the 1963–64 season. With luck, we hope to resume work at the site of Çayönü, in southeastern Turkey, in the autumn of 1967.

The American senior staff, Bruce Howe, Linda Braidwood, and Robert J. Braidwood, as in March of 1965, joined the Turkish co-director, Halet Çambel, for the processing of the Çayönü materials in the prehistory laboratory in Istanbul University in March of 1966. A grant-in-aid from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research allowed the four of us to make a tour of prehistoric sites and museum materials in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Iran.

Work on materials acquired in earlier field seasons in Iraq and Iran has also gone forward in the prehistory laboratory in the Oriental Institute. A difficulty with the slow and detailed processing and interpretation of this material is that our best graduate students hold fellowships pointed toward rapid advancement in their formal academic requirements, leaving them little time for the jobs which detailed processing involves. Fortunately, Mrs. Richard C. Haines has joined the laboratory staff.

There is little enough yet to report on the processing of the Çayönü materials in Istanbul save for the studies undertaken on the metal objects. The Çayönü metals were examined by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Metallurgie des Altertums in Stuttgart, Germany. There is now no doubt that we do have to do with worked native copper at Çayönü. One microphotograph shows particularly well the flattened and elongated crystals of copper which resulted from the purposeful hammering of the object during its manufacture. Hence, at *ca.* 7000 B.C., the people of Çayönü were taking advantage of a unique property of metal, hitherto unutilized, the property of ductibility.

The reports of the colleagues on the natural sciences team are beginning to come in. Dr. Barbara Lawrence of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard reports the presence of the bones



*Microphotograph of a polished surface of the reamer from Çayönü showing, especially on top, the elongated crystalline structure which results from hammering of native copper.*

of at least domesticated goats, sheep, and dogs. Professor Jack R. Harlan of Oklahoma State University has, so far, processed few of the impressions of grain in clay lumps, and will now go only so far as to say that the people of Çayönü had access to glume wheats—but whether wild or domestic, he is not yet certain.

Harlan has, however, reported on some experiments with stands of still wild einkorn wheat from the Çayönü region. A single (inexperienced) man may gather over four pounds of the grain, with a flint sickle, in one hour. This thrashed out to two pounds of clean grain, in a wooden mortar and pestle. Chemical analysis showed the grain to be highly nutritious, containing some 24 per cent protein, in contrast to 14 per cent in modern bread wheat. Harlan estimates that an experienced prehistoric family, working for the three weeks of a normal harvest, could probably have acquired about a ton of clean grain equivalent.

The second botanical colleague, Professor Robert Stewart of Parsons College, believes he may be on to a new botanical discipline as the result of his Çayönü studies, “archeophytopathology.” His microscopic studies are yielding traces of the plagues and blights to which the prehistoric cereals in the Çayönü clay lumps seem to have been subject.

The geographical colleague, Professor Marvin R. Mikesell of the University of Chicago, now believes he can estimate the gen-

eral nature of the arboreal vegetation of the prehistoric Çayönü region. In Mikesell's opinion, there was an open stand of deciduous oaks, with relatively little shade in a general sense, so that clearance for cereal planting was not at first a great issue. The preliminary reports on the fossil pollens from lakes and marshes in both Iran and Turkey by Professor Herbert E. Wright, Jr., of the University of Minnesota and Dr. Willem van Zeist of the Biologisch-Archaeologisch Instituut of Groningen, the Netherlands, are not yet in hand. The pollen analyses will, we assume, complement Mikesell's studies. So may also the study by Dr. Robert Megard, also of Minnesota, of the microscopic animal life of these lakes and swamps, the traces of which came to be embedded on the lake bottoms along with the fossil pollen.

This sketch of work in progress emphasizes how much time and effort—and good will of colleagues—it takes to make the results of a short field season really meaningful.

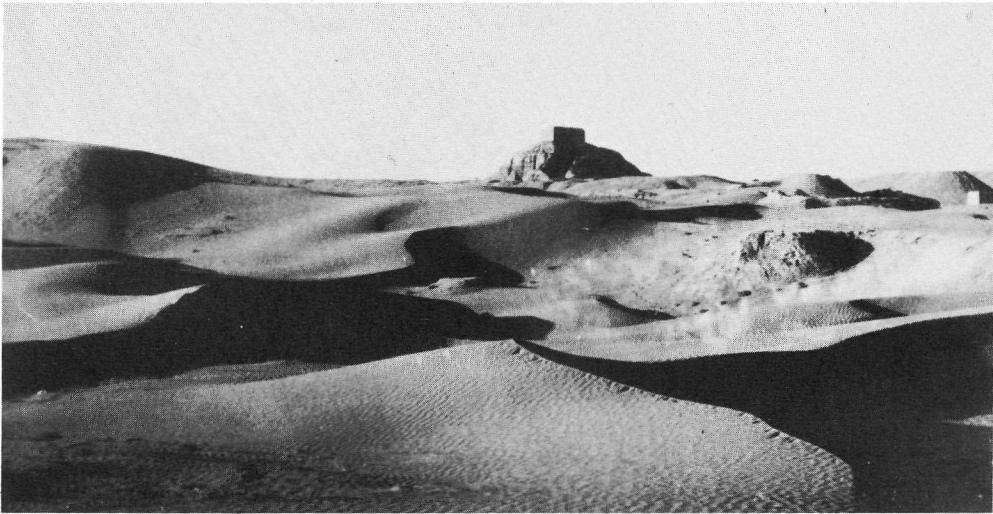
## THE NIPPUR EXPEDITION

*James Knudstad*

Between seasons at Nippur very little moves but the sand, quietly covering again what we have noisily exposed. The Babylonian Expedition of 1889–90 had topographically surveyed the two central mounds of the site in a day when it still lay relatively free of dunes and excavation, but only fragments of their mapping survive. Nippur today represents one of the larger clusters of ancient mounds in Mesopotamia, and a base map becomes essential not only to our field work, but also to the presentation of that work and for the sake of the record. With nine seasons under our belt we felt it high time we had a map of our own. In the fall of 1965 the writer had the opportunity to return to the scene with this small project in his pocket and did his best to track up the sand in furtherance of our continuing program at the site. An Armenian, an Assyrian, an Englishman and several Arabs assisted.

We found Nippur to be something over three miles in circumference with a suburbia of half a dozen smaller mounds beyond. At the same time, more finishing touches were added to the new expedition house. It now boasts tiled floors, light bulbs, and some paint; it is nearly ready for the coming season of 1966-67, which should be a big one.

*Ziggurat from the west mound of Nippur*



## THE TABLETS FROM TELL ABŪ ṢALĀBĪKH

*Robert D. Biggs*

Among the finds from two brief Oriental Institute soundings at Tell Abū Ṣalābīkh in 1963 and 1965, directed by Dr. Donald P. Hansen, were numerous cuneiform tablets dating from the early part of the Early Dynastic III period, about 2600 B.C.



*A Sumerian literary text from Tell Abū Šalābikh*

Included among the more than four hundred tablets and fragments is the largest collection of Early Dynastic Sumerian literary texts so far found in Mesopotamia. The literary texts are all the more important because of their similarity to texts from Fara, the significance of which was virtually unrecognized even by specialists in Sumerian literature for forty years. It is now clear from these texts that there was already by the middle of the third millennium B.C. a standardized corpus of texts known to the scribes throughout Sumer and even as far away as present-day northern Iraq. Among the new texts are proverbs and other wisdom compositions, some parts of which are represented in Mesopotamian scribal tradition for a period of two thousand years. There are also myths about various gods and a collection of hymns. Besides the literary texts, there are many lexical texts, that is, lists of words arranged in categories such as gods, places, professions, metals, garments, and domestic animals.

Only a few scattered tablets from the administrative archive have been found so far, and these contribute little to our knowledge of the town itself, whose ancient name is still unknown.

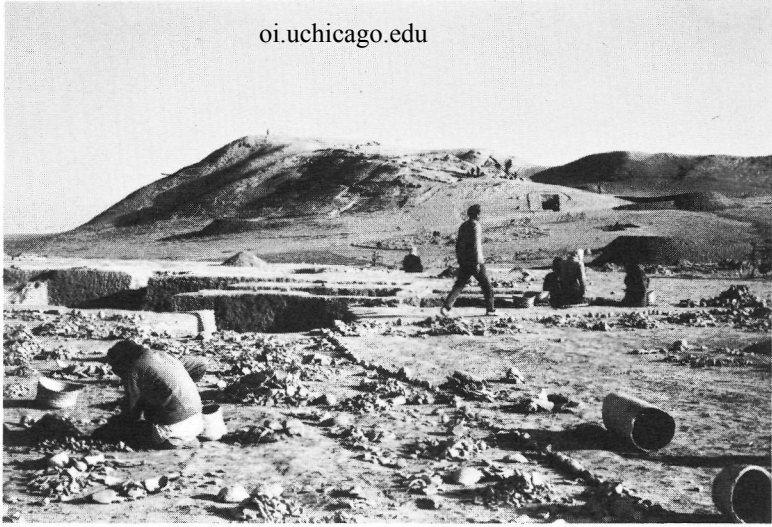
A rather startling feature of the Abū Šalābikh literary and lexical texts is that, although they date from several centuries before the Dynasty of Akkad, a large number of the scribes who copied them bore Semitic names, raising anew the problem of the Semites in early Mesopotamia and their relationship to the Sumerians.

A few of the texts have already been published, and a full publication is in preparation.

## EXCAVATIONS AT CHOGHA MISH IN IRAN

*P. P. Delougaz, Field Director*

The third season of excavations at Chogha Mish in Khuzestan lasted from November 5, 1965, to April 5, 1966. In addition to Professor Helene J. Kantor and the writer, both of whom had spent two previous seasons of excavations at the site (November-



*General view of the excavations looking north. In the foreground a worker is sorting sherds from the trench which can be seen above his head. In the background are the excavations on the higher mounds.*

December, 1961, and February–June, 1963), the staff consisted of two of our graduate students, Father Stanislaw Loffreda and Miss Elizabeth Carter. Messrs. Manucher Imani and Rahbar Omadi served as commissioners on behalf of the Service of Antiquities of the Iranian government. In February, to make up for the departure of Miss Carter and Father Loffreda, we were fortunate to secure the participation of two experienced and highly devoted archeologists, Mrs. H. A. Frankfort from England and Miss Ruth Vaadia from Israel. The number of local laborers varied from about twenty-five to well over a hundred. Nearly all the men who had worked for us in the past asked to be employed again. The fact that we succeeded in training some of the men to recognize and to trace mud-brick walls and a few boys to sort and mend pottery was an important factor in the great amount of work that we were able to accomplish during the past season.

The site of Chogha Mish is a noticeable landmark from a considerable stretch of the Dezful–Shushtar road. It is one of the largest sites in the region and an outpost in the Susiana plain toward the mountains. The nearest foothills begin only some ten miles away, and on clear days four mountain ranges, one towering beyond and above another, can be seen, with the tallest showing snow even in July.

The site itself, roughly rectangular in shape, is oriented in



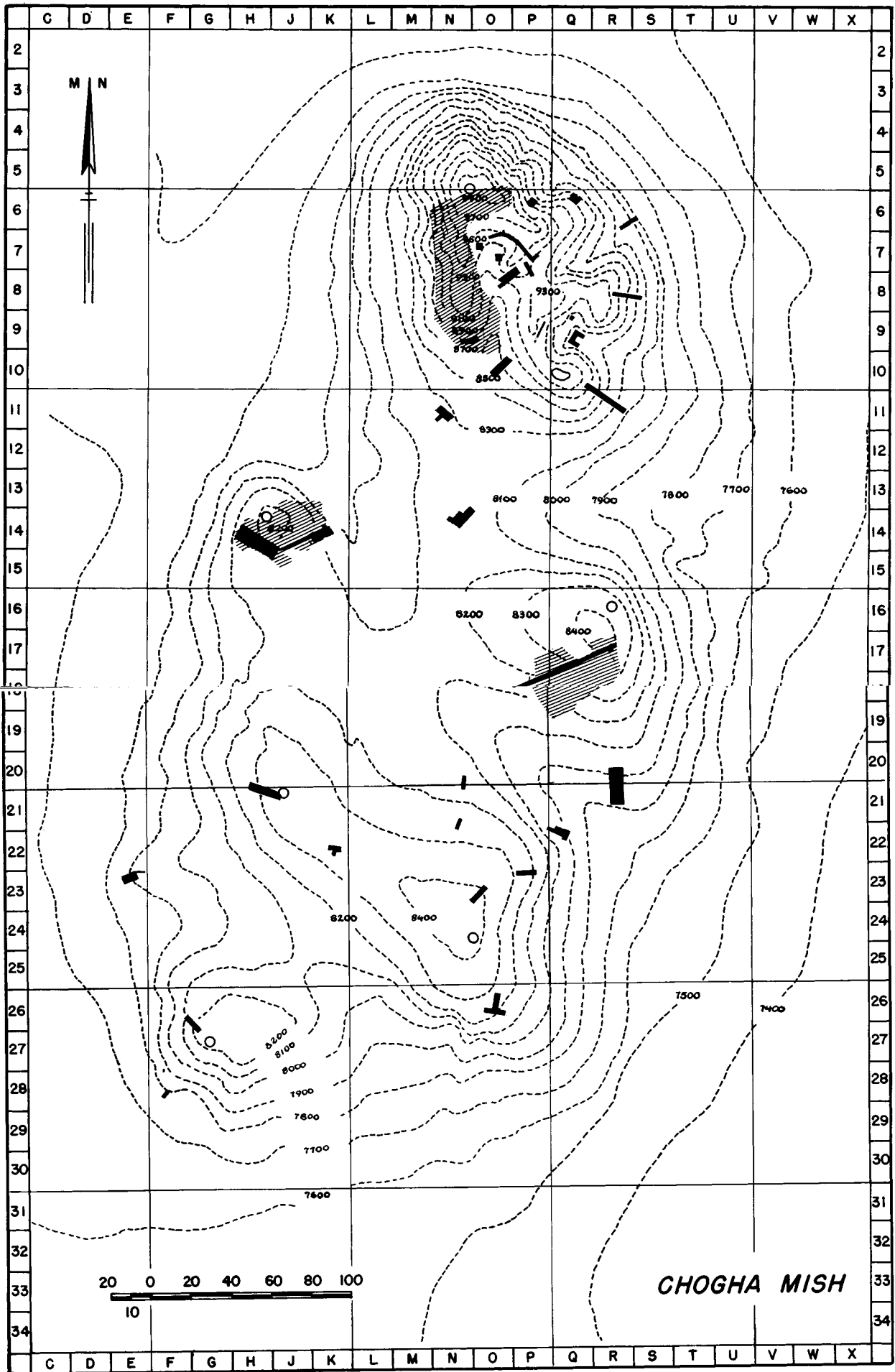
length almost exactly north-south. Ancient remains can be located immediately below the surface in an area about 300 meters wide and 600 meters long, that is, approximately 45 acres. However, there is little doubt that the surrounding fields, the surface soil of which consists largely of materials washed down from the higher parts of the site, cover similar remains and that the ancient site must have been considerably larger, probably 60–70 acres.

Topographically Chogha Mish consists of two parts. The northern part, the “Main Mound,” comprises about one-fifth of the total area and consists of a series of steep ridges and gullies, with the highest point more than 25 meters above the surrounding plain. The southern and considerably larger area is much less rugged and features five less prominent elevations reaching only about 8–10 meters above the surrounding fields. This area is known as the “Terrace.” The whole site is thickly covered with potsherds. Under certain conditions a trained observer may detect indications of building remains below the surface.

When we first came to the site in 1961, the entire Terrace area was under cultivation, and we had to confine our excavations to the Main Mound. During the second season, which coincided with a phase of the recent land reform when redistribution and transfer of ownership of land was in progress, the whole site lay fallow. We used that opportunity to place more than twenty soundings at strategic points all over it in order to obtain preliminary evidence as to the distribution and the dating of its early settlements. Our main results, previously reported, established the fact that the major large-scale occupation of the site as a whole was during the Protoliterate period and also that wherever our soundings penetrated the Protoliterate remains we encountered various phases of prehistoric occupations.

When we arrived in Khuzestan for our third season of excavation at Chogha Mish, we found much of the southern part of the site once more under cultivation. Consequently, our fifteen new soundings were confined to the northern part of the site, mostly on the Terrace (Trenches XVII–XXII and XXV). Nearly all the trenches on the Terrace were carried down to virgin soil. However, our major operations consisted of extending the excavations at certain locations from isolated soundings into larger coherent areas.





Map of Chogha Mish excavations





### *The Vicinity of Trench V*

During the second season we opened a trench about 50 meters long and 2.5–3.0 meters wide in squares R 17, P 18, and Q 18 (Trench V). Toward the end of the season its northeastern end was extended into a larger area. In square Q 18 we located a segment of a curved wall which, however, could not be traced during that season for lack of time. We kept returning to this curved wall intermittently throughout the third season, for none of our workmen was able at the beginning to cope adequately with the extremely difficult brick-tracing which was involved. However, before the season came to an end, we succeeded in tracing completely, both on the inside and on the outside, a circular structure. Its massive walls, about 1.20 meters thick, are about double the thickness of the ordinary walls of the houses nearby. No entrance or doorway to it existed, at least in its original, earliest version. While great quantities of pottery were found immediately outside, the structure itself contained relatively little pottery and few other objects, but in one of its later reconstructions there was a massive deposit of animal and apparently some human bones. Immediately to the southwest of this circular structure was a very large deposit of pottery almost solidly packed to a thickness of about 60–70 cm. over an area almost as large as the building itself. This deposit contained very few complete vessels except for beveled-rim bowls, which occurred in great numbers, both fragmentary and unbroken. Mixed with the pottery were small objects such as clay stoppers for bottles and jars, slingshots, etc., the most notable of which are unbaked-clay stoppers bearing seal impressions. At the east edge and at a lower level than this deposit was a cobbled pavement which, however, apparently had no connection with the circular structure but antedated it. Two oblong crazy pavements consisting of broken and some whole baked bricks lay over this cobblestone pavement. There seems to have been no connection between these pavements and the circular structure.

### *The West Central Hill (Squares H–K 13–15)*

In attempting to establish the date of the occupation of this part of the site, we began Trenches VI and IX and Sounding C in the second season. In Trench VI, on the northeast slope, we encountered in ash layers immediately below the surface large deposits

of typical Protoliterate pottery. Higher up, however, we found typical long Parthian jars and other late pottery. This late pottery was embedded in very hard soil which upon closer examination proved to consist of irregular mud brick packing. The packing overlay the whole of Trench IX, but a few beveled-rim bowl fragments and other sherds of typical Protoliterate pottery were found in it. Below the packing, especially in Trench IX, were walls built of small bricks and fairly large quantities of Protoliterate pottery. During the past season, therefore, we attempted to establish the limits of the solid packing, hoping also that they might provide clues as to its date. Having located the edge of the packing on one spot in Trench XVII B (square J-14), we traced it for a considerable distance to the northeast by following the wall surface and eventually by tracing single bricks until we reached a point where they had completely disappeared because of erosion. Next we continued the same process toward the south. The results were rather surprising, for the outline of the packing as it began to emerge was polygonal with long heavy buttresses projecting from it. In tracing to the south the outline of what now could be considered a platform rather than an amorphous packing, we came upon a later cutting which led inside the solid brickwork and was widened into a roughly circular hole, about 4 meters in diameter. This hole was filled with rubbish, ashes, and pottery. Obviously the hole and its contents were later than the packing, but all the pottery and every single object found with it was clearly of the Protoliterate period. This firmly established the date of the platform.

### *The Main Mound*

We have known from our very first day of digging at Chogha Mish that Protoliterate remains existed fairly high above a core of prehistoric deposits on the higher part of the site. Last season we resumed investigation of the higher part by approaching it from the south in a series of trenches placed between the excavated areas and the highest point. The location of these trenches (XVIII, XXII, and XXIII) can be seen on the map. Finally we started clearing the southwestern side of the Main Mound where we noticed surface indications of important architectural remains. We began by employing a method which has proved its value on other sites, namely by locating brickwork and then clearing individual

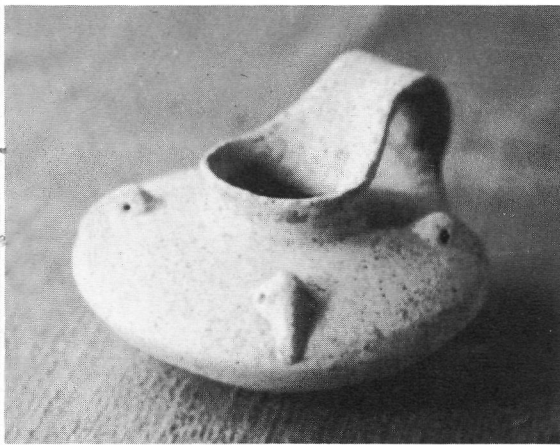
bricks in order to establish the lines of masonry and any change of direction in the brickwork. Once more the results justified this method, for having traced a large number of individual bricks, we were soon able to distinguish not only different sizes but also different alignments of bricks at different heights. Other surface indications led us to dig alongside the bricks, where we were rewarded by a mass of Protoliterate pottery extremely interesting in itself and, even more important, dating the lower brickwork. We have thus located on the lower slope the main part of a monumental edifice of the Protoliterate period with walls nearly 4 meters thick. These overlay directly a hill formed entirely of prehistoric deposits and in turn blended into an even more massive structure of a much later period, probably Elamite. We have recognized a wall running roughly north-south at the top of the northwest side of the Main Mound for a distance of about 80 meters, its thickness, including buttresses or towers, reaching 11.5 meters. Still higher up on the Main Mound we found remnants of Parthian walls, dated by fair amounts of pottery.

### *Finds*

By far the largest bulk of our finds consisted of pottery. Pottery of the Protoliterate period was unearthed in overwhelming quantities. Having had a foretaste of this situation in the previous seasons and in order to save all pertinent evidence that the pottery may reveal, Professor Kantor and I felt it necessary to devise a special method for recording. This new method aims at a total quantitative as well as qualitative analytical recording. Chogha Mish has already produced the largest corpus of Protoliterate pottery known, among which there are many new types and others which provide evidence of close relations with other sites and regions. Of special interest are two ritual vases, one having an elaborate incised decoration and another decorated in relief with goats attacked by snakes.

The small finds are too numerous and diversified to be discussed within the limits of this report. The little bull gives some idea of the artistic quality of even such an unpretentious class of objects as clay figurines. Undoubtedly the most significant single class of finds, and, in a way, the most difficult to deal with, is the large number of cylinder seal impressions on unbaked clay. These



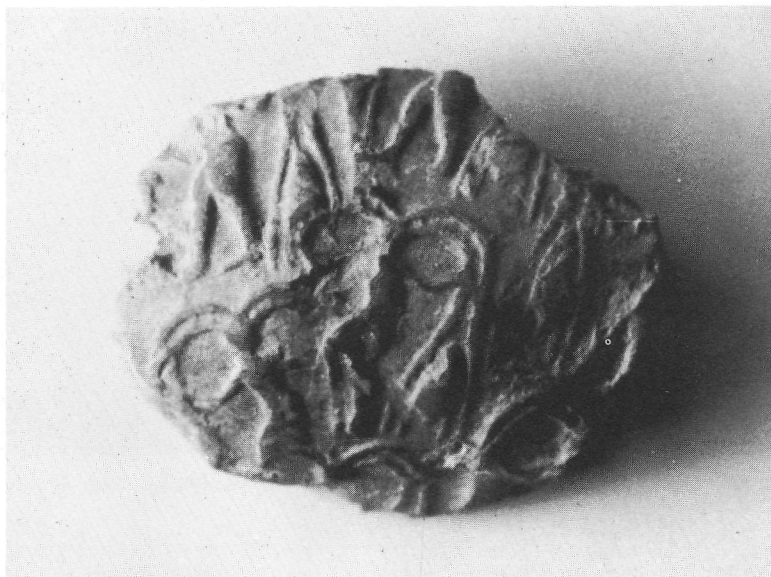


*Left: Extremely rare type of Protoliterate vessel combining strap handle and legs.*

*Right: A very large complete jar of the Protoliterate period in the court of the expedition house at Chogha Mish.*



*Bull from the Protoliterate period from Chogha Mish*



*Protoliterate cylinder seal impression on clay*

vary from nearly complete impressions on large conical sealings or on hollow balls to minute fragments which were recovered by means of sifting debris. To piece together such fragments into complete coherent seal designs and to draw them for publication is a difficult task requiring a unique combination of exceptional knowledge of glyptic, artistic ability, and infinite patience.

Eighteen crates containing the Institute's share of our last season's finds at Chogha Mish are on their way to Chicago. Part of the Teheran Museum's share of our finds from the second season are being sent to us on loan for study and publication by special permission of the Iranian Council of Ministries. Our application for a similar loan of finds from the last season is under active consideration. We hope that it will be granted. For in the field, under constant pressure of a strenuous regime, one gets but glimpses of the new horizons opened up by one's own finds. There it is impossible to do all the work which is needed to establish their rightful place in the wider scheme of cultural history.

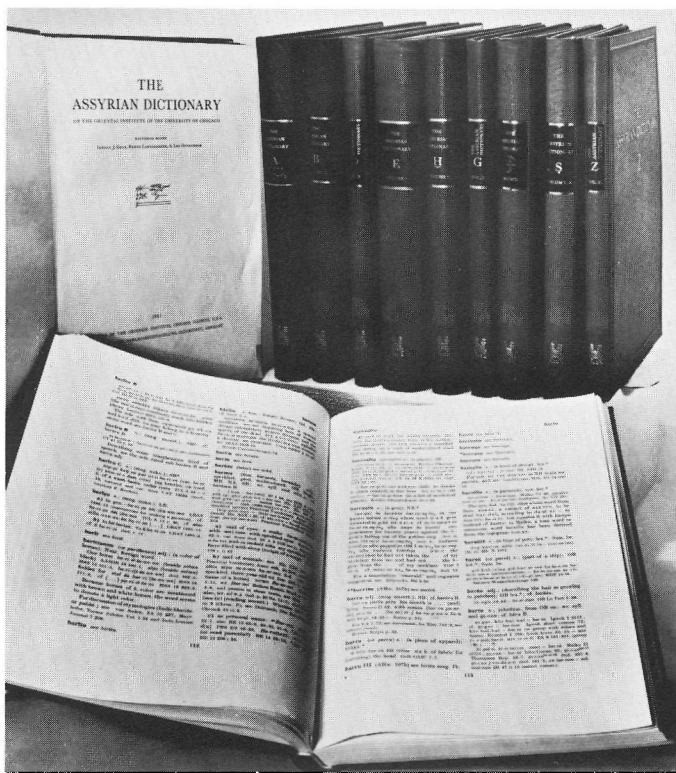
# REPORT ON THE ASSYRIAN DICTIONARY PROJECT

*A. Leo Oppenheim*

Early in 1966, Volume B was published, bringing the number of volumes to nine and the total of pages of actual dictionary text to over 2500. At the moment the final manuscript of Volume A/2 is being prepared for the printer.

I.	Volume A/1 (1964) xxxvi + 392 pages.	\$18.00
II.	Volume B (1966) xviii + 366 pages.	20.00
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

*Volumes produced over the past ten years by the Assyrian Dictionary Project.*



## THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS

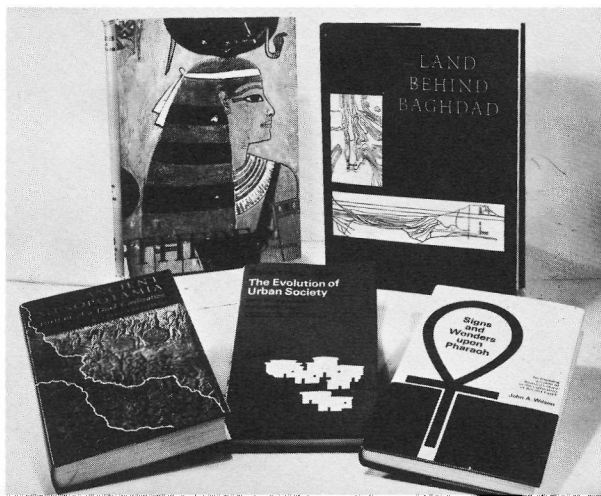
*Elizabeth B. Hauser, Editorial Secretary*

Four works that are now in press are scheduled to appear in the autumn or early winter. Professor Nabia Abbott's second volume of Arabic literary papyri ("OIP" LXXVI) presents a detailed study of the beginnings of written Quranic commentary and Islamic tradition. There are also two long-awaited excavation reports: the first volume on Nippur ("OIP" LXXVIII), by Donald E. McCown and Richard C. Haines, covering three campaigns conducted jointly by the Oriental Institute and the University Museum of Philadelphia, and *Private Houses and Graves in the Diyala Region* ("OIP" LXXXVIII), by Pinhas Delougaz, Harold D. Hill, and Seton Lloyd, describing finds of our Iraq Expedition in the years 1930-38. The last of the four, *Late Ramesside Letters* ("Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization" No. 33), consists of translations and commentary by Professor Edward F. Wente.

In the spring of 1966 Aldine Press published Robert M. Adams' *The Evolution of Urban Society*, a comparative study of the evolutionary patterns of early Mesopotamia and Prehispanic Mexico. The Gordon J. Laing Prize, awarded to a member of the University of Chicago faculty whose book, published during the two preceding calendar years, has lent the greatest distinction to the University of Chicago Press list, was given this year to A. Leo Oppenheim, author of *Ancient Mesopotamia: Portrait of a Dead Civilization*, published in December, 1964.

The editorial office has recently had the good fortune to add a full-time assistant to its "one-and-a-half-man" staff and has every hope of speeding up production.

*Oriental Institute faculty members' publications over the past two years, including A. Leo Oppenheim's award-winning Ancient Mesopotamia: Portrait of a Dead Civilization.*



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*Condensed statement 1965/66*

BALANCE, July 1, 1965		
Restricted purposes		\$25,468.96
General		1,614.02
TOTAL		<u>\$27,082.98</u>
Income July 1, 1965–June 30, 1966		
Members' dues and gifts		39,181.94
TOTAL		<u>\$66,264.92</u>
EXPENDITURES, July 1, 1965–June 30, 1966		
Support of Oriental Institute activities	\$22,000.00	
Museum Development Program	4,203.48	
Purchase of Antiquities	278.00	
Prehistoric Project Expense	3,304.42	
Egyptological Bibliography	100.00	
Lectures, Duplication and Entertainment	4,892.08	
Turkish Trip Honoraria	500.00	
TOTAL	<u>\$35,277.98</u>	\$35,277.98
BALANCE, June 30, 1966		<u>\$30,986.94</u>
Held for restricted purposes		\$27,192.36
Operating balance, general purposes		<u><u>\$ 3,794.58</u></u>

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