

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.

