

Publications

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The past year saw the publication of four works: Nabia Abbott, *Studies in Arabic Literary Papyri*, Vol. II ("OIP" LXXVI); Pinhas Delougaz, Harold D. Hill, and Seton Lloyd, *Private Houses and Graves in the Diyala Region* ("OIP" LXXXVIII); Donald E. McCown and Richard C. Haines, *Nippur*, Vol. I ("OIP" LXXVIII); and Edward F. Wente, *Late Ramesside Letters* ("Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization" No. 33).

The first two volumes of the Nubian Expedition are now in press. They cover operations conducted jointly in 1960/61 by the Swiss Institute in Cairo and the Oriental Institute. For the financing of Volume I we are deeply indebted to the generosity of Dr. Edmundo Lassalle. This volume records the reliefs and inscriptions of the Beit el-Wali temple of Ramesses II, while Volume II is a report on excavations in the same area of Nubia.

Nubians bring ebony, a leopard skin, monkeys, a leopard, a young gazelle and a giraffe to present them to Ramesses II (From a relief in the Beit-el-Wali Temple in Nubia).



Also in press is Professor Richard T. Hallock's *Persepolis Fortification Tablets* ("OIP" XCII), and two other volumes representing work by the Persepolis Expedition will soon be ready for the printer. *Persepolis*, Vol. III ("OIP" LXX), by the late Professor Erich F. Schmidt, records the results of the excavations at Naqsh-i Rostam, describes the rock-cut tombs of Darius the Great and his successors, and gives a survey of all known rock reliefs of the Sasanian kings. In his *Aramaic Ritual Texts from Persepolis* ("OIP" XCI) Professor Raymond A. Bowman discovers that the highest generals in the armies of Xerxes and Artaxerxes I participated in the religious ceremonies involving the preparation and drinking of the sacred intoxicating drink made from the haoma plant. Final preparatory studies for this volume were undertaken by Professor Bowman on a trip to Iran in the fall of 1966.

Another work which is in press is Professor Louis V. Zabkar's *Study of the Ba Concept in Ancient Egyptian Texts* ("Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization" No. 34). The author examines anew the contexts of the Egyptian word "ba," usually translated "soul," and concludes that the Egyptians never

Professor Raymond A. Bowman, Chairman of the Department of Oriental Languages and Civilizations, is greeted by the Shah of Iran at a reception for Iranologists in Teheran.



considered the “ba” as the spiritual element in man but rather that it represented the man himself, that is, the totality of his physical and psychic capacities.

Two new numbers in Professor I. J. Gelb’s “Materials for the Assyrian Dictionary” series are in production, *Sargonic Texts in the Louvre* (No. 4) and *Sargonic Texts from the Kish Area* (No. 5).

Soon to be published by the University of Chicago Press is a volume entitled *Letters from Mesopotamia*, by Professor A. Leo Oppenheim. This anthology of official, business, and private letters is intended to convey to the reader a more intimate and varied image of Mesopotamian civilization than that offered by the readily available translations of epic texts, royal inscriptions, and law codes. It contains translations of 150 letters dating from the time of King Sargon of Akkad (about 2334–2279 B.C.) to the Persian period (beginning in 539 B.C.) and coming from Mesopotamia proper and regions to the west, including Asia Minor, Cyprus, and Egypt.

Finally, we call attention to *The Discovery of Egypt* (Viking Press; New York, 1966) by Leslie Greener, who until his recent retirement was an artist member of the Epigraphic Survey at Chicago House in Luxor. This is truly a fascinating history of man’s growing and changing interest in the antiquities of Egypt. The story runs from a half-legendary son of Ramesses II through the Greeks and Romans and the early European travelers down to the death in 1881 of Auguste Mariette, founder of the Egyptian Department of Antiquities.