

TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

George R. Hughes, *Director*

A year ago when the annual report to the members was being compiled the brief but momentous Arab-Israeli war had just ended. It is an understatement to say that the Oriental Institute was vitally interested in many ways, for one, in what the convulsion would ultimately mean to its field operations and to the mobility of its scholars in pursuit of their investigations. Although some limitations on mobility have resulted and the prospect is obscured by uncertainty, it is an indication of a certain maturity in East and West that cordial scholarly and personal relations as well as institutional esteem have suffered no serious blight despite political strains.

The first of the expeditions to return to the field for a new season after the conflict was the Epigraphic Survey. It was back at work in Luxor, Egypt, by mid-November, only a month later than normal, and that largely owing to initial reluctance on the part of the United States to permit its nationals to go out. Professor Nims's accompanying report on the ensuing season reflects the surprisingly warm reception and assistance accorded this veteran expedition. In January Professor Žabkar and his staff also returned to the Nile Valley for a second and final season of excavation of the fortress and cemetery at Semna South in the northern Sudan.

Other expeditions had not been scheduled to take to the field last winter, but the coming autumn and winter will again see the Institute well represented in Turkey, Iraq, Egypt and Iran.

A report to the members ought to chronicle a few of the milestones passed by the Institute and its staff during the year which do not otherwise figure in the summaries of current enterprises. It is, however, a somewhat hazardous undertaking, for the staff is a large one with catholic interests, and any chronicler, especially a very new director, is likely to overlook or be unaware of some significant achievement or development.

At the end of August, 1967, the Oriental Institute was host to an international representation of Assyriologists for the *Rencontre Assyriologique* held for the first time in its existence in the United States. Most of those attending came directly from the triennial XXVIIth International Congress of Orientalists at Ann Arbor, Michigan. Despite the fact that the idea of assembling scholars from all over the world periodically to learn from each other is a laudable one, still, after almost a century since the first Congress was held in Paris in 1874, the fact of the accumulation of data and the inevitable proliferation of recondite disciplines dealing with a multiplicity of cultures from Anatolia and North Africa to Japan and

Southeast Asia leaves special groups like the Assyriologists seeking occasions for more significant exchanges of detailed problems and insights.

May 8th marked the opening of the Prehistoric Project's exhibit in two alcoves of the east gallery of the Museum. The colorful, diagrammatic display is a distinct departure for the Institute's Museum. Dictated in part by the nature and objectives of the Prehistoric Project itself, it is the first attempt on the part of Professor Braidwood to communicate graphically what he and his diverse staffs have learned and hope to learn about early man in Iraq, Iran and Turkey: the where, when, how and why of man's first attempts to utilize his environment and its resources. The exhibit was conceived of as experimental and for that reason its execution, the relatively modest space it occupies notwithstanding, was a long and trying task. We are deeply indebted to Mrs. Alexander Langsdorf, Jr., for voluntarily contributing her artistry and long hours of work to the venture as well as to Mr. Robert Middaugh and the regular members of the staff, Robert Hanson, Ursula Schneider and Robert Ahlstrom, who worked with her.

We cannot but express vicarious satisfaction in the visit of His Majesty Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, the Shah of Iran, to the campus on June 14th and 15th for the purpose of dedicating the site of the new Pahlavi building to be built immediately east of the Oriental Institute. A reception in his honor sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies was held in the galleries of the Museum. The new building will house the Center for Middle Eastern Studies as well as the Adlai Stevenson Institute of International Affairs. The Center's major purposes as a research organization, like its building, adjoin and supplement those of the Institute.

The University of Chicago will begin participation in 1968 along with eighteen other American universities in a newly instituted five-year Ford Foundation program for graduate student training in field archeology. It has long been a disability felt by American archeologists working outside the country that there has generally been a lack of opportunity for promising American students to get to the field. This is in contrast to, for example, France and Germany, with their great national institutes with branches in various countries. The greater distance from the United States to the Near East, for one thing, has usually kept the personnel of our investigative groups to a minimum which barely represented the essential disciplines and therefore largely excluded graduate students.

The receiving of a one-year grant by Professor Emeritus Keith C. Seele from the National Foundation for the Arts and the Humanities has helped toward solution of

a perennial problem, that of processing archeological finds and preparing, among other things, the photographs and drawings for their publication. Inasmuch as the funds of the new Foundation are limited and competition for them has mounted rapidly in the brief period of its existence, the recognition of the significance of the material and our obligation to make it available as well as the confidence shown in Dr. Seele are a source of satisfaction to us all.

The Oriental Institute is a living organism, not just a research organization with a building, a budget, a library, a museum and some field headquarters. It is, first of all, a group of persons, and we are sharply reminded of that fact periodically, but rarely as forcibly as we are being reminded in 1968.

On April 26th in the death of Benno Landsberger at the age of 77, Assyriology and Sumerology lost one of the giants of all time. After professorships in the Universities of Leipzig and Marburg in Germany and Ankara in Turkey, Professor Landsberger came to Chicago in 1948 at the height of his scholarly powers. Although he retired in 1955, he remained a keen and active scholar in the Oriental Institute's community almost to his death. He had been the teacher of the world's leading Assyriologists and remained the mentor and friend of them all.

June 30, 1968, inexorably brings the retirement of three members of longest standing: Raymond A. Bowman, Elizabeth B. Hauser and John A. Wilson. It is a satisfaction that we need not say farewell to them, for all three give every evidence of carrying on unfinished tasks in our midst with the vigor they have shown in a combined service of over a century among them.

Professor Bowman became an instructor of Hebrew and Aramaic when he received his Ph.D. from the University in 1935 and continued through the ranks to a Professorship of Oriental Languages. For the last six years he has been Chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Dr. Bowman's uncompromising scholarship has been equaled only by his devotion to continuous teaching and his variety of extracurricular services to the Department, the Divinity School, and the Institute. His *Introduction to Ezra and Nehemiah* in "The Interpreter's Bible" was a major contribution to Biblical studies. His *Aramaic Ritual Texts from Persepolis*, the publication of texts from the Persepolis excavations, which is now in press, will be an equally important contribution in another area. We expect that it will not be his valedictory.

Mrs. Hauser became an assistant to Dr. T. George Allen in 1931 in the editorial office and upon Dr. Allen's retirement in 1950 she became the Oriental Institute's second Editor. The existence of its own editorial office from the beginning was recognition of the peculiar prob-

lems presented by the diverse and unusually complex material which generally characterizes Oriental Institute publications. Mrs. Hauser proceeded to familiarize herself with manuscripts whatever their content until she was often as conversant with them as the authors themselves. Far from being a mere checker of references and proofreader, although she has not spared herself in those tasks she has ranged from the planning of the composition of books, the translating and supplementing of them, to the problems of costs and the last details of their printing. To a research group for whom the best possible communication of its findings is all important, Betty Hauser has been the untiring intermediary.

Professor Wilson became a member of the staff of the Oriental Institute when he received his Ph.D. under Breasted and became an Egyptologist of the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor in 1926. In 1931 he returned to the campus as a member of the faculty and began teaching. Five years later he succeeded Breasted as Director of the Oriental Institute. Since 1953 he has been the Andrew MacLeish Distinguished Service Professor of Egyptology in the University. He has filled these 42 years with productive and exacting scholarship in the voluminous translation and interpretation of Egyptian texts and the writing of history. It was inevitable that he should become the representative of American Egyptology and the much sought after spokesman for Near Eastern studies generally.

No finer or more enduring tribute could be paid any scholar than was paid Dr. Wilson in the establishment of the John A. Wilson Professorship of Oriental Studies by an anonymous gift to the University. The Oriental Institute as academic beneficiary can only express profound appreciation of the caliber of John Wilson which inspired the gift and of the imaginative generosity of the donor in establishing the Institute's first named professorship.

Dr. Edmundo Lassalle repeated his personal gift of 1966/67 to ancient Egyptian and Coptic studies and thus completely financed the publication of the Beit el-Wali Temple in Nubia and again provided fellowships for two graduate students. The Lassalle fellowships are granted to students who are nearing the end of their training and are preparing their doctoral dissertations. In the 1966/67 annual report (p. 5) Dr. Lassalle's gift was erroneously, to our embarrassment and his, called a "grant from the Lassalle Foundation of New York," a non-existent foundation.

Again in the spring of 1968, enlarging upon experience gained on the Turkish Trip in 1966, our vigorous Visiting Committee member, Mr. W. Press Hodgkins, planned for and led a group of members and supporters of the Oriental Institute and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies on a trip to Lebanon, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Prior to departure the participants had the opportunity to hear specialists speak on various aspects of the

cultures, ancient and modern, of the countries to be visited. On the trip they were guided and briefed by knowledgeable persons resident in the host countries and were given ample opportunities to meet with a wide spectrum of people not only in antiquities services but in education, business and government.

Since the days of its forerunner the Haskell Oriental Museum between Swift Hall and Harper Library, the Oriental Institute Museum has been popular to a select clientele, usually individuals or families who came to browse in the peaceful galleries. Less frequently larger groups might ask one or another of the faculty or the Secretary of the Museum to act as guide on their visits. Then about 15 years ago it seemed expedient to employ first a graduate student part-time, then a full-time docent to be available when groups, usually from the public schools, scheduled visits and to take educational materials to the local schools upon request, and the demand from this quarter kept growing. Nevertheless, the collections both on view and off remained largely the scholar's province, probably better and more favorably known to specialists in the ancient Near East elsewhere than to the surrounding community.

That was the gradually changing picture until barely a year and a half ago when Mrs. John Livingood, the Museum's indefatigable Secretary, opened the gates to the pent up demand and met it in a variety of new ways by enlisting the help of like-minded volunteers. If the public demand was overwhelming, no less so was the response of capable people in the Chicago area who in two groups have, since 1966, undertaken courses of instruction and reading to prepare themselves to be interpreters of the collections and the work of the Institute. The once spare offerings of mementoes at the information desk has become a growing variety and quantity to meet a multiplying demand in the new Suq, the shop in the lobby, which is itself the inspiration and gift of a friend. These activi-

ties are modestly described elsewhere in this report. We of the faculty and staff can only express awed appreciation to our band of devoted volunteers who have in so short a time become so much a part of us, relied upon implicitly by the public and ourselves. It is one thing to contribute one's time and energy casually for a worthy purpose, it is something else to commit oneself to seeing that the shop is manned and supplied and sales accounted for day after day and to being on hand to meet scheduled groups any day.

Some of the volunteers have also been assisting usually short-handed field directors in mending and drawing pottery for publication, among other things. Mr. Donald D. Bickford of Honolulu, not exactly a "local" volunteer, has given unremittingly for the entire academic year his time and skill as an architect and draftsman to Dr. Seele's work on the voluminous Nubian material.

Finally, on June 30, 1968, Robert McC. Adams completes six years as Director of The Oriental Institute and leaves the post. He will continue to be very much a part of the Institute and the University, but by resigning the directorship he will be free to pursue his surface reconnaissance of southern Iraq about half of each year. In addition he will combine his survey for three years with the directorship of the Baghdad School of the American Schools of Oriental Research.

These six years have been good years marked by strong, steady leadership which has given an organization whose business it is to look backward an expectant, forward outlook and has set a tone of buoyancy. If it is, as it would seem to be, the role of the director of a research institution not only to provide an example of scholarship himself but to recognize ambitious and adventuresome investigation in areas outside his own competence and to understand, encourage and support it without attempting to force its proponents into a preconceived mold, then Robert Adams has interpreted the role well.