

## The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

JOHN A. BRINKMAN, *Chairman*

The Department is the academic or teaching branch of the university whose interests largely overlap those of the Oriental Institute, which is basically a research organization. The Department is responsible for instructional programs leading to graduate degrees (M.A. and Ph.D.) in the languages and civilizations of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Anatolia, Syria-Palestine, and Iran; but, in addition to these areas which it shares with the Oriental Institute, it is also concerned with medieval and modern Islam and with medieval Judaism. The Oriental Institute traditionally provides the teaching staff for most of the Department's programs in the ancient fields; and at present, twenty-six of the thirty-five faculty members of the Department are also members of the Oriental Institute.

During the past year, six new staff members have joined the Department. Joseph A. Fitzmyer, Professor of Aramaic and Hebrew, has come to offer a wide range of courses, principally in the various dialects of Aramaic and in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Fazlur Rahman, Professor of Islamic Philosophy, has added new dimensions to our study of Islamic law and culture. Gene B. Gragg has been serving as Visiting Assistant Professor of Sumerology and has been teaching also in the Department of Linguistics. Our coverage of modern Islamic languages has been considerably enhanced by three new teachers: Joseph N. Bell, Instructor in Arabic, Iraj Dehghan, Lecturer in Persian, and Yurdanur Salman, Lecturer in Turkish.

In the winter and spring quarters 1970, the Department sponsored a series of lectures on pre-Islamic Iran, including talks by Martin Schwartz (Columbia), B. Schlerath (Frankfurt), S. Shaked (Jerusalem, currently visiting at Berkeley), and A. D. H. Bivar (London).

On June 30, 1970, the Department will be sorry to lose through retirement the services of Richard C. Haines, who has so capably taught courses in Mesopotamian archeology over the past years.