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To the Members and Friends of the Oriental Institute

This introduction to the annual report is expected to come each June from the pen of the director. It could take a number of forms. It might be a high-minded, theoretical disquisition on the strengths and weaknesses of the Oriental Institute, on how it is or ought to be searching its collective soul and scrutinizing its performance and prospects as a research and training organization. Perhaps the introduction ought to be just such a state-of-the-Institute piece, at least on occasion.

If the director thought that his mind was not fertile enough or his grasp of all the disciplines, approaches and projects, actual and possible, was not firm enough, he could easily gather plenty of suggestions as to what is wrong with the Institute and where it ought to be placing its emphasis or emphases in the 1970's. The Institute has, perhaps fortunately, never lacked for critics, friendly and unfriendly. The trick is to listen to them even when they seem uninformed or merely jealous, and they commonly do seem so, of course. The Institute was recently held up, for example, in a Chicago newspaper, as a horrible example of antiquated preoccupation with the palaces, tombs and monuments of royalty and nobility in antiquity while ignoring the life of the common people. If that were true, it would be a serious indictment.

This introduction might settle upon the problems, many of them perennial, which the director sees, not all of them being at bottom a lack of money, although there are enough that are symptoms of that all too prevalent malady. If the director—not simply this one—were to confess, not to what he spends most of his office hours worrying about, but to what in other hours pre-empts his thoughts, he would have to admit that these latter concerns do not involve money at all.

In fact, apart from his concern over the narrowness of his own conceptual vision, he might well wonder, for example, whether he and his colleagues should not be worried, rather than comfortable, that the Oriental Institute is so stable and traditional, that it is constituted and carries on today very much as it has through the years. Not long ago the Provost of the University told me that he had more than once had occasion in talking to persons outside the University to use the Oriental Institute as an example of a stable unit of it. He did not intend the characterization as an adverse judgment; perhaps he should have. He was, I believe, thinking of the great reaches of time, the huge geographical area, the enormous bodies of complex material already found and still to be found, and the endless human effort still to be expended on the material, as symbolized by the Institute's two longest-lived and still far from finished projects, the Assyrian Dictionary at home and the Epigraphic Survey at Luxor, Egypt.

Perhaps we should be less awed by the overall size of the job and less impressed by the lure of comprehensive attacks on parts of it but should be more selective of specific objectives. Still, comprehensive and long-term tasks, such as are represented by the Assyrian Dictionary and the Epigraphic Survey, are valid enterprises which must ultimately be undertaken by someone and they do not conceivably yield to limited, small-scale definition. The rationale of an Oriental Institute was predicated upon making enterprises of just such magnitude possible. Most of us would, however, think twice before committing the Institute *de novo* in the present day to bitter-end excavations of something like the great mound of Megiddo, and that hesitation would not arise altogether from the staggering cost in unavailable money and personnel over decades. Even so, any director must ask himself whether he and his colleagues are not rationalizing their latter day timidity and limited personal interests in such judgments rather than discriminating legitimately in the best interests of science.

Directors and their colleagues must constantly wonder, also, about their judgment on the choice of new members to join them on the faculty, usually to replace those who retire or resign. This is crucial, and choice is difficult in disciplines in which the total number of possible candidates in the world may be less than half a dozen and the only criterion is the promise of a young scholar based on as yet slim evidence. Sheer ability, first and foremost, must be balanced against the needs of the teaching programs and perhaps of some project, but the presence of an outstanding scholar, *prima donna* though he is very apt to be, cannot be balanced against any functional consideration.

But now for a few happenings in our corporate life during the past year which are not reported in the following pages. The various enterprises at home and abroad are summarized by the supervisors themselves, but some things fall in nobody's province or in everybody's and therefore the director's.

With the retirement of Richard T. Hallock, Professor of Elamitology, the Institute loses officially one of its members of longest tenure. Professor Hallock came to Chicago in 1929 for graduate work with his B.A. from the University of Toronto. In 1930 he became a Research Assistant under the late Professors Arno Poebel and Edward Chiera. He saw duty with the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary for years and worked in Sumerian and Akkadian lexicography and grammar. In 1933/34 the Persepolis Expedition found what it reported as 30,000 inscribed tablets and in 1937 Professor Hallock turned to the Elamite of these tablets. In 1941-47 he was in Washington, D.C., at work in the War Department. In 1969 he published over 2,000 of the texts in his *Persepolis Fortification Tablets*. The book is the work of a master of Achaemenid Elamite and considerably more than an edition of these economic texts from the reign of Darius I (ca. 500 B.C.). Professor Hallock has long since been at work on thousands more of the tablets and will, we hope, with the wry sense of humor that is his, continue his labors among us to the satisfaction of the consummate scholar that he is.

This year our faculty has lost four scholars in their prime on whom we had come to count heavily, each of whom had been with us but a short time, yet each of whom had come to fill a large place. David E. Pingree came in 1963 and departs on leave status for research at Brown University from which we earnestly hope and expect that he will return. Maurits N. van Loon came in 1967 and now returns to the University of Amsterdam in his native Netherlands. Hans J. Nissen came to us in 1968 and now returns to the Free University of Berlin in his native Germany. Joseph A. Fitzmyer came in 1969 and now departs for Fordham University. It is never an easy thing for a faculty to lose first-rank scholars like these, it is never easy to replace them, and it is at best a dubious satisfaction to have our judgment of them confirmed by other universities.

During the year the Institute lost two ties with its early years through the deaths of Mr. Gordon Loud in Washington, D.C., on March 9, 1971, and of Mrs. Edward Chiera in the Chicago area on May 3. Mrs. Chiera had remained a member of the University community for many years following the death of Professor Chiera in 1933. Gordon Loud

came to the Institute in 1929 from the Harvard School of Architecture and a season as field architect on the University of Michigan's Fayum Expedition in Egypt to be field architect for the Iraq Expedition. He eventually directed excavations at Khorsabad and at Megiddo before leaving the Institute and archeology in 1946.

Among honors conferred upon members of the faculty three have come to the attention of the director. Robert J. Braidwood received an honorary D.Sc. from the University of Indiana in April. Charles F. Nims was elected an Associate Member of the Institut d'Égypte, a society of scholars founded by Napoleon Bonaparte about 1800 to which few Americans have ever been elected. David E. Pingree was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in May.

In June, 1971, Margaret Bell Cameron, sometime Administrative Secretary of the Oriental Institute and long a member of its Visiting Committee, was elected a Trustee of the University of Chicago much to the gratification of all of us.

The International Congress of Orientalists held its twenty-eighth triennial meeting in Canberra, Australia, in January, 1971. Not many Americans attended; the Institute was represented this time by only two members; John A. Wilson and Klaus Baer. Professor and Mrs. Wilson included the Congress in a round-the-world trip and spent some weeks in Egypt for Professor Wilson's third season as adviser to the University of Pennsylvania's Akhenaten Temple Project.

Whatever other function this report might serve, it ought to express profound appreciation for the very basic and far-reaching contributions to the Institute in time, thought, work and money made by the outside members and volunteers.

Mrs. John Livingood's volunteer program, originally intended to provide museum guides for visiting groups, has not only drawn volunteers and visiting groups beyond her dreams, it has developed special services and offerings to the public as need and interest have indicated. The contributions made by these out-going persons, efficiently organized among themselves, cannot be estimated.

Mrs. Paul Manes and the group of volunteers who operate the Suq, the shop in the lobby, can scarcely keep apace of the trade that they have fostered and efficiently met. The Suq seems to have become in a very few years the campus and community place in which to acquire gifts that are far from ordinary.

A long-time friend of the Institute, who has on numerous occasions made possible major additions to the Institute programs in a variety of

areas, once again saw a major need and made a gift to meet it. The gift totaled \$45,000 to be used to provide an assistant to Professor Emeritus Keith C. Seele to help him prepare the volume presenting the study of the enormous collection of materials deriving from the excavations above the new Assuan Dam in Egyptian Nubia. The intention of the donor was to provide the assistant for a three-year period, at the end of which time it is hoped that the publication will be ready; then a portion of the gift is for the purpose of defraying the costs of printing the volume. The gift was made on condition that within the three-year period the Institute raise from other friends a matching \$15,000 toward the estimated printing costs. That welcome challenge is one that it is hoped other donors will take up. Any gifts specified for the purpose of meeting it will be strictly deposited in the matching account.

As is indicated in Professor Nims's report below, Dr. Carl E. DeVries, who was a member of Professor Seele's expedition to Nubia and has for the last six years been a member of the Epigraphic Survey staff in Luxor, has chosen to accept Professor Seele's invitation to assist him in preparing the Nubian material for publication. On April 13 Professor Seele underwent a truly major surgical operation but still finds the road back to a semblance of his former strength slow and tedious. [When these hopeful words were already in print, they were shattered by Professor Seele's death on July 23.]

We are grateful to each person in the list of members at the back of this brochure. Very simply the Institute could not do a considerable number of the things that it has come to expect and to be expected to do without the financial support that they give. The categories of membership, long in existence, have never been used before in the annual report. I believe that the most important words in the naming of the categories of membership are "or more." In the case of a good many names in the list the words should be "and *much* more." For the "much more" in those instances the Oriental Institute is very grateful indeed and hopes that its stewardship serves well the intended purpose of the production and dissemination of knowledge of the human career of which we are all heirs.

George R. Hughes
Director