

To the Members and Friends of the Oriental Institute

To one who writes these introductory remarks for the annual report for the fifth and last time, two questions recur: Of what should they consist? and Does anyone read them? The answer to the first question will probably always lie with the director with only occasionally an intimation after the fact that he omitted something which he should not have. The answer to the second comes only once in a rare while from someone who was struck by something said. More frequently the annual report as a whole is assumed to be something that it is not intended to be. For example, recently the librarian of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford wrote impatiently that he had been trying to "subscribe" to it because it had been called to his attention as containing scholarly information that should be available to the users of the Ashmolean library. That may be so, but the touchy job of the compiler and editor is to impress upon the contributors that their pieces should be readable by anyone, not just by a few in restricted disciplines. The navigable channel between esoteric minutiae and recondite vocabulary on the one side and the mere sounding of the personal horn by contributors on the other side is a somewhat narrow one, but it has been rather consistently found in the years past.

In any case, this valedictory will concern itself almost wholly with personnel, with the persons who have made and who will make the Oriental Institute what it has been and will be. One could not hope to assemble a staff which would be able to do research and teaching in every corner of all the disparate civilizations of the ancient Near East. One can strive for some degree of comprehensiveness in the main lines and most promising

areas and for the last degree of quality in whatever is undertaken. In the final analysis, it is the quality and caliber of mind of the individuals making up a research institution that alone determine its value and success, not plans and projects, not research themes or thrusts. The organization can only incorporate persons of outstanding ability into itself, encourage, stimulate and support them.

The Oriental Institute has this year had, as it does almost every year, losses of persons who have served it and scholarship long and well; it has also made new acquisitions of persons on whom it has fastened its hopes for the years ahead.

On July 23, 1971, in the death of Keith C. Seele, Professor Emeritus of Egyptology, at the age of seventy-three, the Oriental Institute lost one of the senior and long-time members of its community of scholars. Mr. Seele was still vitally active even in retirement, working on the publications of the finds from the excavations which he had directed in Egyptian Nubia and editing the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.

Mr. Seele had studied Egyptology in the University of Berlin in 1926-28. In 1928 he came to the Oriental Institute and in 1929 became a member of the staff of the Epigraphic Survey at Luxor, Egypt. After seven years in that post he returned to the campus in 1936 as an Instructor of Egyptology. Two years later he earned his doctorate. He passed through the ranks to the professorship of Egyptology from which he retired in 1964. He had become editor of the *Journal* in 1948 and by hard work built it up from a minimal circulation and a struggle to acquire articles for the next issue to a world-wide circulation and an embarrassment of voluntary contributors.

After years of epigraphy, teaching, writing and editing, Mr. Seele was cast suddenly into the unfamiliar role of director of the Institute's campaign to help rescue the monuments of Nubia from the waters of the new Assuan High Dam. He directed those excavations himself in 1960/61 and 1962-64.

Of the varied studies that Mr. Seele produced through the years, *When Egypt Ruled the East*, in the writing of which he collaborated with the late great George Steindorff, was and is the most widely read. It appeared in 1942, was revised by Mr. Seele alone in 1957, and eventually appeared in paperback form.

Richard C. Haines, who now retires, came to the Oriental Institute in 1930 to be a field architect for the Anatolian Expedition. In 1932 he was transferred to the Syrian Expedition

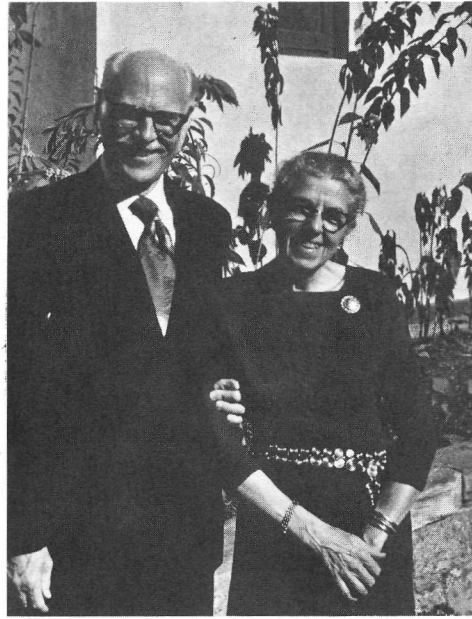


Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Haines attending a brunch in honor of Mr. Douglas Braidwood and his fiancée in a suburb of Detroit in the summer of 1971. Photo by Frank Manasek

and in 1937 to the Persepolis Expedition in Iran. From 1942 to 1948 he was on leave of absence for national service during the Second World War, but from 1946 to 1948 he did some drawing for the Persepolis Expedition while still on leave. In 1949 he returned to active duty on the Iraq Expedition at Nippur, eventually not only as field architect but as director of excavations. After 1965 Mr. Haines devoted himself to preparation of a backlog of excavation volumes and even delayed his retirement for two years for the purpose. Now Carl and Irene Haines have left, with eager anticipation on their part and a freight of gratitude and memories on our part, for a new life in their new house in their native New Jersey.

Charles F. Nims retires on June 30, 1972, from his professorship of Egyptology and the directorship of the Epigraphic Survey at Luxor.

After three years of graduate study in the University, Mr. Nims became an Oriental Institute Research Assistant in 1934. In 1935-37 he was the Egyptologist on the staff of the Saqqarah Expedition, and in 1937-39 he held the same post on the Epigraphic Survey at Luxor. From 1940 to 1946 he was pastor of a church in southern Illinois and a chaplain in the U.S. Army in World War II. In 1946, when the Luxor expedition was being



Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Nims at Christmastime, Chicago House, Luxor. Photo by Robert Biggs

reconstituted following the war, he returned to the Institute and became epigrapher and photographer on the expedition. In 1964 he became director of the expedition.

The directorship of the Luxor expedition is a post for which the Institute hires one person and gets the full-time services of two. Mrs. Nims was bookbinder for the Luxor expedition library for years and thereafter carried the responsibility for the expedition household for more years still.

Mr. Nims has seen his *Thebes of the Pharaohs*, which appeared in 1965, achieve both scholarly acclaim and wide circulation. Now he and Mrs. Nims settle down in their home in the Hyde Park neighborhood, and he will continue working at the unfinished investigations and writing that he has harbored and not found time to accomplish.

Edward F. Wente, who was a member of the Epigraphic Survey staff from 1959 to 1967, went to Luxor in the winter of 1972 to take over the directorship of the expedition from Mr. Nims. During the last five years Mr. Wente has been resident on the faculty in Chicago as Professor of Egyptology. May the responsibilities at Luxor be balanced by enduring satisfactions for Edward and Leila Wente!

The Luxor expedition lost at the end of the 1971/72 season one of its Egyptologists, David B. Larkin, after five years of very able service to the maintenance of the scholarly excellence of the recording. His first order of business is to complete the well advanced work for his doctorate at the University.

It is with regret that we see Peter J. Parr return to the Institute of Archaeology of the University of London from which he had come to us only a year ago to be Associate Professor of Near Eastern Archeology. Mr. Parr was not only the scholar and teacher that we expected when we invited him to join us, but he and his family had entered into and contributed greatly even in a short time to the life of the Institute.

While we are counting our losses of the year, there is one which is great but not complete. Mrs. Edna Manes found it necessary on doctor's orders to lay down the management of the *Suq*, the museum shop. It would be impossible to estimate the value of the devotion and long hours that she has given to the shop as a volunteer, but even more inestimable have been her merchandising experience, her taste and imagination in selecting and developing items for sale, and her common sense and buoyant good spirits. Fortunately, she will continue her interest in the *Suq* unabated and her presence on occasion.

Much as we regret the retirement of Mrs. Manes from the management of the *Suq*, we are certain that good fortune has been with us in the willingness of Mrs. Mary Fahrenwald to assume these by no means light responsibilities.

We have not lost valued associates without making any gains at all. New to the faculty the past academic year are Janet H. Johnson, who received her Ph.D. in June, 1972, as Instructor of Egyptology, and Stephen A. Kaufman as Assistant Professor of Aramaic and Hebrew. Miss Johnson took up part of the teaching program in Egyptology upon the departure of Mr. Wente for the Luxor expedition. Mr. Kaufman replaced Joseph A. Fitzmyer, who went to Fordham University in 1971. Charles C. Van Siclen became a replacement in the 1971/72 season for Carl E. DeVries as an Egyptologist on the staff of the Epigraphic Survey at Luxor and received his first experience of the Nile valley.

Klaus Baer was chosen by his colleagues during the year and appointed by the Provost to a three-year term as Chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations to begin on July 1, 1972. Mr. Baer is not only an able and wide-

ranging Egyptological scholar; his contributions to the life of the Institute and the Department have been unstinting. He has taught beyond the call of duty and has been a constant advisor, confidant and friend to students.

John A. Brinkman had so completely earned the confidence of his colleagues during his three-year term as Chairman of the Department, both as a scholar and a perceptive administrator, that they would very probably have wanted him to continue. Instead they settled upon him as their preference to become the next Director of the Oriental Institute. I commend him to the members; you will be hearing from him and about him.

Finally, inadequate as it may be as a summary of these four years, Mrs. Hughes and I owe a great and unpayable debt to a very large company of people, all members of the Institute in one sense or another, all friends of the Institute, many of whom have taken us to themselves and become our friends. For immensely enriching our lives through your widely varied lives and interests, your generous encouragement and support of us in a role which we took up with no little temerity in 1968, we thank you.

To make any director humble there have been, of course, administrators of the University and colleagues in the Institute who have been more than considerate and forbearing when perhaps they should not have been. There have been fellow faculty members and students from whom I have learned and shall continue to learn more than they have learned from me. There have been the volunteer museum guides and shop attendants who have added a new dimension to the life of the Institute and to the support of its purposes. There have been those outside members who have willingly given of their thought, effort and money, often very large gifts of money, for the benefit of the Institute.

There have been numerous staff members behind the scenes who have throughout kept the machinery of operation running smoothly for the benefit of the scholars. Above all to the director, there have been an incomparable Administrative Secretary, Ethel M. Schenk, and an untiring Membership Secretary, Marion B. Bailey, who have long and expertly borne the duties of the office of the director.

GEORGE R. HUGHES
Director