



A. Leo Oppenheim

June, 1973, marks the official retirement of A. Leo Oppenheim, the first occupant of the John A. Wilson Chair of Oriental Studies. Since coming to the Oriental Institute in 1947, Oppenheim has trained a generation of graduate and post-graduate students in the field of Assyriology. His vigorous classes, with their impromptu wanderings over a wide range of subjects, breathed life into philological topics which, in other hands, would have seemed dull and dusty.

Oppenheim's greatest contribution to the field of learning is his beloved *Assyrian Dictionary*, over which he has presided as editor-in-charge for eighteen years. Eleven volumes, comprising more than 3,700 pages, have been published to date; and a twelfth will appear in the course of the present summer. Statistics alone give little idea of the monumental stature of this definitive work or of the distinctive personal imprint which Oppenheim's energy and creativity left upon it, but it will serve generations to come as the standard lexicon of the Assyro-Babylonian language.

The Oppenheims are retiring to California but not severing connections here. He will be returning to Chicago for several months each year to carry on his own research and to assist his successors with the new dictionary volumes in progress.

To A. Leo Oppenheim, in gratitude and with affection, this issue of the annual report is dedicated.