

To the Members and Friends of the Oriental Institute

In 1974, the Institute's longest continuing field project, the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor, Egypt, marks its fiftieth anniversary. Eleven folio volumes of the Survey's meticulous recordings of the inscriptions and reliefs of Ramesside temples have already been published; and this work has set a standard for accuracy that is almost without peer in Egyptological work. Below you will read an account of the highly successful techniques of copying developed by the Epigraphic Survey over the years as well as a report of the activities of the 1973/74 Survey.

The past year has also witnessed further Institute excavations in Iran and Iraq. Detailed illustrated reports on work at Chogha Mish and at Nippur by Helene Kantor and McGuire Gibson will acquaint you with the latest finds at these sites. Meanwhile, back home in the States, other archeologists were preparing reports on their earlier field work: Robert Braidwood on Çayönü, Carl DeVries on Nubia, and Louis Žabkar on Semna South.

Your membership support has made it possible for us to continue actively with other projects here in Chicago: the Assyrian Dictionary, Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon, and the Cushitic (Ethiopian) Language Project, to mention a few. These and other research projects of individual faculty and staff members are described below. The past year also saw the opening of the new Research Archives, a collection of books and reference materials that will form the nucleus of a badly needed research library in the Institute building.

The Museum too has experienced considerable growth. The addition of a conservator, Miss Barbara Hall, and of a basic conservation laboratory (thanks to a generous gift of the Women's Board of the University) has already assisted considerably in arresting the deterioration of many of our fine archeological objects. The Museum has also been awarded two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts: to renovate its Babylonian Hall and to compile a catalogue for its collections.

The Volunteer Guides have continued to provide their excellent tour services to the public and to arrange evening classes on ancient Near Eastern history and archeology for our members. In addition, in May they sponsored a popular tour which visited the major collections of ancient Egyptian and Western Asiatic art in the museums of Europe and the Soviet Union.

This has likewise been the most successful year to date for our Membership Program. Thanks to an extensive campaign by letter, more than 350 new members from all parts of the world have been added to our membership rolls. The credit for this phenomenal growth is shared by many quarters: an active membership subcommittee of the Visiting Committee (Mr. Albert Haas, Mr. William Roberts, and Mr. and Mrs. Roderick Webster), an energetic membership secretary (Mr. Bernard Lalor), an able editor of our fledgling *News & Notes* (Mr. Peter Daniels), and our members themselves, who suggested the names of so many of their friends and colleagues to be invited to become members.

This year we have welcomed two new faculty members: Kent Weeks, assistant professor of Egyptology and director of the Epigraphic Survey, and Lawrence Stager, instructor in Syro-Palestinian archeology. The first two James Henry Breasted Research Associates were also appointed: William Murnane (Epigraphic Survey) and Marten Stol (Assyrian Dictionary).

Within the past months, our community has also suffered diminution. John A. Wilson, Breasted's successor as director of the Oriental Institute, who has continued his active career here even after his retirement in 1968, has left Chicago to settle in New Jersey. William Weinberg (1884-1974), one of our oldest and most devoted members, has passed away; he had worked in the Suq until a few weeks before his death. Finally, Carolyn Livingood, who founded and so ably directed our Volunteer Guide Program that it became a model followed

by other museums, has stepped down from her position of responsibility, though she will continue to employ her energies in the Institute, assisting in archeological conservation work.

To our members and friends, we express gratitude once again for your continuing support. As you will see in the following pages, the Institute owes much to your interest and help.

John A. Brinkman
Director

July 8, 1974

Postscript. As this report goes to press, we are saddened to hear of the sudden death in Berkeley, California, on July 21 of A. Leo Oppenheim, who retired in 1973 as the John A. Wilson Distinguished Service Professor of Oriental Studies and as editor-in-chief of the Assyrian Dictionary. Mr. Oppenheim more than any other person was responsible for the superb scholarly achievement of the first twelve volumes of the *Chicago Assyrian Dictionary*; and he will be fondly remembered by students and colleagues who benefitted from his stimulating and insightful research and teaching. Recently, on his seventieth birthday (June 7), he had been honored by the University of Chicago Press, which issued a microfiche collection of many of his out-of-print articles written over the past forty years. We offer our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Oppenheim.