
To the Members and Friends of the Oriental Institute

This year the focus of the Institute has been on three spectacular museum exhibitions. "The Treasures of Tutankhamun," co-sponsored with the Field Museum from April 15 to August 15, attracted more than 1,348,000 visitors during its Chicago stay; its exceptional artistic success drew extensive newspaper and television coverage and requires no further elaboration here. Linked with the Tutankhamun exhibit is the special "Magic of Egyptian Art" display in our own Museum, which will run for one year through April 15, 1978. This includes materials used at the funerary banquet of Tutankhamun and various examples of New Kingdom art from the Institute's reserve collection. Finally we have had the long-awaited opening of the redesigned Mesopotamian Hall, a striking new exhibit of the civilization of the Sumerians, Babylonians, and Assyrians in a graphic educational style. All of these exhibits were made possible in part by grants either from the National Endowment for the Humanities or from the National Endowment for the Arts; and it is a pleasure to acknowledge this support.

During 1976/77, Institute expeditions or staff took part in several fieldwork projects abroad: in Egypt (Luxor, Quseir survey), Iran (Chogha Mish), Iraq (Nippur), Saudi Arabia (general survey), and Tunisia (Carthage). Reports on much of this work will be found below.

This year we have welcomed two new faculty members: Hermann Hunger, formerly of the University of Vienna, to work on the Assyrian Dictionary Project; and Simo Parpola, of the University of Helsinki, to teach Akkadian. Charles Van Siclen served as acting director of the Epigraphic Survey for nine months, beginning in January. Bruce Williams joined the staff as Research Associate to continue the work on the Nubian publications. Thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Irving Finkel, Maureen Gallery, and Brigitte Groneberg came to the Assyrian Dictionary staff as Research Associates.

On September 30, 1976, Hans G. Güterbock became Professor Emeritus after more than twenty-five years of service with the Institute. He continues to be active with his own research projects and to collaborate on the Hittite Dictionary Project. Kent Weeks,

director of Chicago House in Luxor (Egypt), resigned to accept a faculty appointment at the University of California, Berkeley.

The Institute has suffered several losses through death during the past year. Besides the decease of John A. Wilson (August 30, 1976) and Gustavus F. Swift (October 1, 1976), noted in postscripts to last year's Annual Report, we have lost R. Carl Haines (February 15, 1977), former director of excavations at Nippur, and Ursula Schneider (August 4, 1977), for many years the senior member of our photographic staff. To their families we offer our sincere condolences.

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

August 28, 1977

John A. Brinkman
Director