

RAYMOND A. BOWMAN



IT IS A PLEASURE to dedicate these pages to Raymond A. Bowman on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday (April 14, 1978). Before his retirement in 1969, Professor Bowman served on the Institute faculty for more than thirty years and offered a wide range of courses in the West Semitic languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Phoenician, Ugaritic, and Syriac. He gave himself selflessly to teaching elementary Hebrew to a full generation of students in a way that not only demanded their best daily efforts, but exacted from him countless hours given to meticulous correction of their written exercises. He served as departmental Chairman during the crucial years 1962–1968 that spanned the transition from the old Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures (including the Far Eastern and South Asian fields) to the new Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. His writings have reflected the variety of his teaching interests; but, in recent years and especially since his retirement, his major research has been and continues to be the painstaking editing of the Aramaic inscriptions from Persepolis (a second volume of texts is now being completed for publication). To him and to his wife, Marguerite, his companion for more than fifty years, we wish good health and many more years of happiness.