

TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

THIS PAST YEAR has seen the breaking of new ground in several areas. Janet Johnson and Donald Whitcomb have begun a full-scale program of survey work and excavations around the port of Quseir (Egypt) on the Red Sea. In Iraq, McGuire Gibson has shifted the attention of the Nippur expedition to the smaller site of Umm al-Hafriyat in a search for archeological remains of the little-known Akkad period (ca. 2350–2200 B.C.). Mr. Gibson has also been the primary driving force in founding the new American Institute for Yemeni Studies and laying the ground for future archeological exploration in North Yemen. In the Museum, John Carswell has initiated a program of rotating special exhibits, which to date have ranged over such diverse subjects as Coptic Art and the photographic career of Ursula Schneider.

Meanwhile archeological fieldwork has continued at Carthage (Tunisia), Chogha Mish (Iran), and Luxor (Egypt). The Assyrian Dictionary has published two volumes (800 pages) dealing with words beginning with the letter "M." The Hittite Dictionary has made significant progress in writing draft manuscripts for its first volume, to be published in 1979. The Prehistoric Project, under Bob and Linda Braidwood, has completed the lengthy preparations for its final field season at Çayönü in 1978/79.

Several new staff members have joined the Institute during the past year. Lanny Bell has been appointed Assistant Professor of Egyptology and assumed the duties of Field Director of the Epigraphic Survey in Luxor. John Carswell has become Curator of the Museum with the rank of Research Associate (Professor). Maureen Gallery has been named Visiting Assistant Professor of Assyriology and continues her collaboration on the Assyrian Dictionary Project.

Judith Franke, after serving as Registrar, Assistant Curator, and Acting Curator in the Museum, transferred to the University's Office of Public Information in October 1977. A particular debt of gratitude is owed her for her work on the new Mesopotamian Hall and for her capable administration of the Museum during the hectic months of the Tutankhamun exhibitions. After twenty years of service as artist on the Epigraphic Survey, Reginald Coleman retired on June 30, 1978. He and his wife, Marie, will be missed very much at Chicago House.

Special thanks are due this year to several groups and individuals. We are particularly grateful to Maurice Schwartz for establishing a generous endowment fund. In June, the Visiting Committee graciously underwrote expenses for a very successful fund-raising dinner on behalf of the Museum. Dr. Herman Serota kindly donated to the Tablet Collection a rare archive of Old Akkadian documents. Dr. Emanuel Wolff, brother of Ursula Schneider, gave considerable help in facilitating the exhibition of her works. The American Schools of Oriental Research and the Jordanian Department of Antiquities made it possible for the Institute to acquire a fine collection of Early Bronze pottery from Bab edh-Dhra.

We are grateful to all our members and friends for your continuing interest and support. The following pages will sketch briefly what the Institute has been able to accomplish in the past year with your assistance.

John A. Brinkman

July 28, 1978

John A. Brinkman
Director