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Ral-Hafriyat near Nippur, and has since been studying the cuneiform texts found there. He also supervised construction of a new kiln at Nippur—the fifth or sixth one since excavations were resumed there in 1948. He continues to work on mid-third millennium texts, including those from recent British excavations at Abū Ṣalābīkh, and has become increasingly involved in the problem of relations between Abū Ṣalābīkh and the now-famous site of Ebla in Syria. In connection with this he gave a lecture at the Chicago chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America, "Ebla—An Interim Perspective."