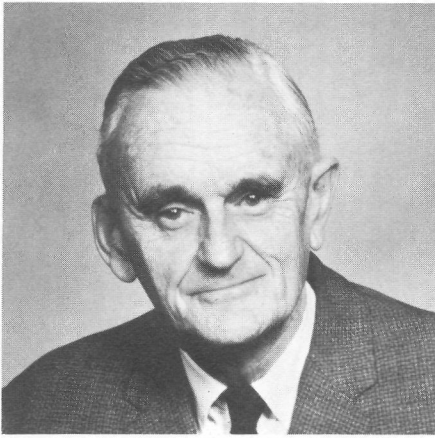


## Dedication

MICHAEL ROWTON began his studies in Assyriology at a much later stage in life than most of his colleagues, when he was serving with the British army of occupation in Europe after World War II. When he had completed his degree and his army service, he came to the U.S. and



served for several years on the Assyrian Dictionary project during the crucial stages when its initial volumes were being written and published. His areas of research have been wide-ranging and varied, and his impact in these fields has been substantial. In the earliest stage of his career, he wrote several definitive articles on the then highly fluid subject of Mesopotamian chronology; and it was largely his dispassionate and thorough weighing of evidence, summed up for the most part in his massive contribution to the *Cambridge Ancient History*, that tipped the balance in favor of the “middle chronology,” which has dominated the field for the past two decades. In the area of grammar, his masterful monograph on the Babylonian permansive revealed whole new ranges of meaning for this poorly understood form. Over the past dozen years, he has been pioneering new areas of research on the geography, ecology, and social landscape of Mesopotamia and Western Asia. These studies have appeared gradually in articles; but he hopes to collect many of them, especially those studying tribal societies and related institutions, into a monograph in the near future.

It is our pleasure to dedicate this volume of the Institute’s annual report to Michael Rowton on his seventieth birthday—with respect, appreciation, and affection. His years as researcher and teacher at the Institute have made the fields of Mesopotamian studies immeasurably richer.