

Dedication

The effectiveness and scope of the research programs of the Oriental Institute have often been significantly enhanced by the devoted work of its professional, non-academic staff. This Annual Report is dedicated to three outstanding staff members, now retired, each of whom worked here for four decades and left a lasting imprint on the institution: Johanne Vindenas, Elizabeth Hauser, and Robert Hanson.

Johanne Vindenas came to the Institute in 1924, five years after its founding. From then until her retirement in 1964, she built up the most complete and best organized library collection on the ancient Near East in the United States. So exceptional was the range of this library that G. K. Hall Publishers in Boston in 1970, just before the centralization of most of this university's humanities and social science libraries, published in sixteen large volumes a complete catalogue of the Institute's collection. Miss Vindenas' knowledge of and devotion to her bibliographical treasures were legendary, and she unhesitatingly but impartially took to task any Institute scholar—faculty member or student—who dared to transgress her rules on circulating books. (The term “dared” is used



Johanne Vindenas

advisedly, since even the senior members of the Assyrian Dictionary staff referred to her privately as "The Dragon" and went to extraordinary lengths to avoid her mild wrath.) Under her aegis, Institute faculty, staff, and students enjoyed the use of an unparalleled research instrument, which even today in its remote reincarnation is a source of envy to less fortunate scholars. After her retirement, Miss Vindenas served for many years as volunteer registrar on the Institute's excavations at Chogha Mish in Iran. Today at 82, Miss Vindenas lives in retirement in Norway, though the seriousness of the retirement is occasionally called into question as word reaches here of sundry skiing exploits. We salute Miss Vindenas for her years of dedicated service and extend good wishes that the skis may long continue in use.

Elizabeth Hauser began work in the Institute's editorial department in 1931 and retired as head of that department at the beginning of 1971. In the meantime, she had edited and produced so many books that her name had become virtually synonymous with the Oriental Institute's publication series. She edited manuscripts in French, German, or English and had acquired a working knowledge of so many ancient languages that she could probably have taught comparative courses in several disciplines. To the everlasting gratitude of many would-be authors, she relentlessly pursued accu-



*Elizabeth Hauser,
portrait by Ursula Schneider*



Robert Hanson

racy of content and felicity of expression; and to “hauserize” a manuscript meant to subject it to an exhaustive process of questioning, checking, rewriting, and polishing until it could pass the exacting scrutiny of the editor herself. Her standards were rigorous, and on more than one occasion she did more research on a book to edit it than had its author to put it together. The Hauser legacy was a long line of superlatively prepared publications, edited in a grand tradition. Today in her eightieth year, Mrs. Hauser lives quietly in the Hyde Park community near the university campus. We thank Mrs. Hauser for her decades of active work and wish her and her husband many more happy years together.

Robert Hanson worked on the preparatorial staff of the museum from 1933 to 1975, retiring as Museum Preparator. His skills as carpenter, electrician, and restorer brought museum exhibits to life; and there were few technical problems connected with any project in the Institute building that he couldn’t resolve with his gentle talents. From pottery menders in the basement to dictionary staff on the third floor, we pestered him day in and day out with countless minor and major problems and awaited his unperturbed solution. His patience and his unflappability were inexhaustible in a crisis and helped to soothe those whose compatibility with machinery was marginal. In later years, he used his construction talents to build a small plane in his garage; and at the age of sixty-five he began taking flying lessons. Robert Hanson, now 72, and his wife live in Florida in a house he built mostly by himself. We are grateful to Mr. Hanson for his many years of service, and we hope that both the Hansons enjoy many more happy years of retirement.

To our three senior staff members, Johanne Vindenas, Elizabeth Hauser, and Robert Hanson, who gave so much of themselves to the Oriental Institute, we affectionately inscribe these pages.