

Introduction

As members of the Oriental Institute know, the scientific work of the Institute spans many disciplines and thousands of years of history throughout the Near East. The Oriental Institute was founded to enable trained scholars to pursue various approaches toward a common end: unraveling the development of civilization in the Near East and the history of its cultures and peoples, cultures which had enormous direct and indirect influence on western civilization as a whole. Members have come to appreciate the wide range of scholarly activities undertaken by the Oriental Institute, both personal research pursued by individual faculty and large-scale projects involving several researchers—sometimes extending beyond the active lifetime of any one scholar.

Scholars have the responsibility of communicating new discoveries, new analyses and syntheses both to their colleagues in the academic world and to the general public. One of the claims to fame of James H. Breasted was that, in addition to being a superb scholar and visionary of what could be done in the field of Near Eastern studies, he was also an excellent communicator: stories are told of the throngs who went to hear his public lectures and he wrote some of the most readable, and exciting, general portraits and histories of the ancient Near East that have ever been written. The Oriental Institute strives to continue

this two-fold legacy from James H. Breasted by combining formal training of students and publication of results of investigations by scholars with the more public members' programs and the museum. The museum itself combines both aspects, with its displays intended to acquaint the beginner or the school child with the high points of ancient Near Eastern civilization and, at the same time, display for the graduate student or visiting scholar many of the important and unique materials in our collection, derived largely from our own excavations. The actual work currently in progress at the Institute is summarized in the rest of this report. What I would like to do here is show how the communications aspect of the Institute is organized and how it fits into the overall plan/organization of the Oriental Institute.

The volumes working their way through the Publications Office from submission to publication reflect the wide-ranging interests, approaches, and contributions of the Institute. We are responsible for both primary publication of data and interpretive studies. Archaeological, epigraphic, textual, grammatical, historical and cultural studies, and various combinations of these approaches are represented. The volumes range over the geographical and temporal extent of the ancient Near East. They appear in various series which reflect the scope of the volume. Although

none of these books will hit the New York Times bestsellers list, they will all have major impact on the field of Near Eastern studies, as the Institute continues its tradition of being at the forefront of Near Eastern studies.

Oriental Institute Publications are the primary publications of data in a manner which will be the standard of reference for all future scholars and studies for generations to come. One such volume appeared this year, the Epigraphic Survey's publication of the battle reliefs of Seti I at Karnak. Others in progress in this series include both archaeological studies (on the Holmes expedition to Luristan, on the Institute's excavations at Ishchali, in Iraq) and publications of texts (on land tenure). Similarly, the *Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition* series is designed to present the final reports on the materials excavated by the Institute during the Nubian salvage campaign; Williams' A-Group royal cemetery appeared during the year while several other volumes, covering material ranging in date from neolithic through Meroitic and X-Group (Roman and early Christian Nubia), are in press.

O*riental Institute Communications* are usually shorter or more preliminary reports of archaeological excavations (on the recent Oriental Institute excavations at Kurban Höyük, in Turkey), types of publications which also appear occasionally in the series *Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilizations* (on a neolithic village in Syria). More frequently in recent years the SAOC series has included interpretive studies (the pa-

pers presented at an Institute symposium on bureaucracy; study of Nippur neighborhoods based on cuneiform texts found during excavations), especially on Egyptological topics (introductory grammar of Demotic). Similar work in Assyriology and related cuneiform disciplines usually appears in the series entitled *Assyriological Studies* (on Old Babylonian letters from the Oriental Institute's excavations at Tell Asmar, in Iraq; studies in honor of Hans Güterbock). The *Materials and Studies for Kassite History* presents primary material and interpretive studies of this important period in Mesopotamian history.

In addition to these series which incorporate many different types of material, the Assyrian Dictionary publishes the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary (15 volumes have appeared and proofreading is being done on vol. 17) and the Hittite Dictionary is publishing the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (of which the first three fascicles have appeared). The Demotic Dictionary has prepared the first draft of its Demotic Dictionary Supplement, which will appear as one unitary volume.

All these publications represent the permanent record of work in the field, museum, and library which is the underlying purpose of the Oriental Institute. All are directed toward professional colleagues. By contrast, the museum has a dual audience and dual purpose. Not only do we have one of the major collections of ancient Near Eastern artifacts in the U.S., but a very large proportion of it comes from our own archaeological excavations. The

knowledge of the original context of the artifacts increases their usefulness for scholars. Therefore, we are regularly visited by students and scholars from all over the world who are working on studies of individual objects or categories of objects and who stay from one day to several weeks studying pieces in our collection. We also have a constant flood of requests for photographs of objects in the collection for publication, both in scholarly studies and in more popular books designed to appeal to the general public. Although such visits and requests take a great deal of staff time, we are pleased to encourage such research and to help spread knowledge of our collections.

The more public face of the museum involves the thousands of visitors who come through it each year. Many are school groups, many are church groups, and many are individuals or individual families. Thanks to our well-informed and extremely enthusiastic volunteers (some of whom man the *Suq*, assist behind the scenes in the Museum and work for individual faculty, although most spend a morning or an afternoon a week giving tours of the museum), these groups and individuals may participate in either a general tour of the museum or more specific tours focussing on a specific region or conceptual orientation (e.g., tours with a biblical theme). The workshops for children and for adults, especially teachers, help people become acquainted with the museum and help them relate the objects of antiquity to similar objects in the

modern world. This helps make the people of the ancient Near East seem more real.

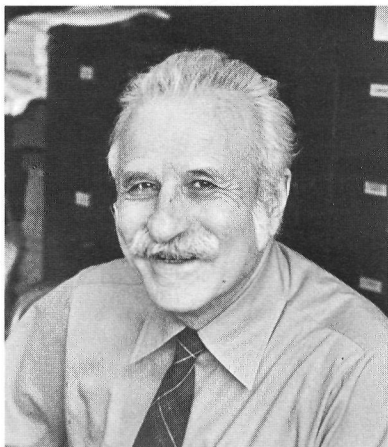
In the course of their research, some faculty and staff regularly travel to distant parts to engage in archaeological or epigraphic field work; others remain at home, working in museum and tablet collections and libraries. The former group is the more glamorous and attracts more interest from the general public. It is they who are most frequently called upon to present their latest results to the members via an evening lecture (e.g., the lectures on recent excavations at Nippur, Çayönü, Ashkelon, Mendes, Luxor, Aqaba and in the Galilee) or a short report in the *News & Notes* (reports from Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, even China). But the “stay-at-homes” also have important things to say, not only to their colleagues but to the interested layman. These results may come from the reading of tablets or papyri (e.g., the lectures on Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon and on Halley’s comet); from preparing old archaeological excavations for publication, what we have termed “museo-archaeology” (e.g., the lectures on Woolley’s Ur in retrospect and on the architecture of Early Dynastic Lagash); or from working or reworking materials in museum collections (e.g., the lectures on portrait sculpture in Late Period Egypt, on the sculptural school of Aphrodisias, and on excavating museum basements and the *News & Notes* articles on recent museum acquisitions and the “Baal” exhibit). The members’ courses offered throughout the year provide

more in-depth coverage of a topic, usually combining the excitement of treatment of individual sites or excavations with deductions derived from study of related textual or museum collection materials (e.g., the courses on the Philistines, on ancient Iran, and on the history of Egyptology). Others concentrate more completely on one corpus of material (e.g., the courses on Egyptian art and on Egyptian ethics and law). One enduring favorite, which provides insight into the character and philosophy of an ancient culture while also providing the student with a bit of esoteric information, is the introductory hieroglyphs course, which is now offered regularly by mail as well as at the Institute.

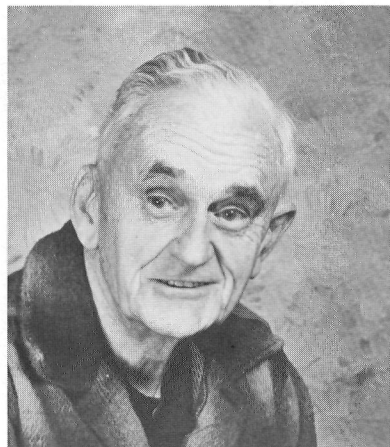
This year's annual report of the Oriental Institute is dedicated to two Institute scholars who made major contributions to the whole field of Near Eastern studies, as well as to

the Institute, and who shall be sorely missed by all their colleagues and students. Their widespread interests exemplify the breadth of the Institute. I. J. Gelb, a world renowned Assyriologist who had worked especially on Hittite hieroglyphs, cuneiform texts from the Sargonic period, and the history and development of ancient scripts before branching out into his major studies of social and economic history revealed by the tablets. Toward the end of his life, he had become one of the major experts on the study of the Ebla tablets. Michael Rowton was a specialist in ancient chronology and grammar. He became interested in the study of tribal nomads and the role of the environment in the development of the Near East and did groundbreaking work in this field.

Janet H. Johnson
Director



Ignace J. Gelb



Michael B. Rowton