

**M c G U I R E · G I B S O N**

McGuire Gibson continues to serve as Chairman of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, which is housed in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. As part of that responsibility, he has become involved in planning joint research efforts that will allow scholars working in American research centers in places such as Italy, Egypt, India, and Hong Kong to cooperate on large scale, coordinated programs. His interest in far-ranging programs of this kind is related to his search for recurring ecological/social patterns in Mesopotamia through time. He has been studying documents, such as the records of the East India Company in Baghdad and the Gulf, for possible correlations of environmental conditions and social change in the past few hundred years. He hopes to show that such evidence can be used as part of a larger, long-term model for understanding ancient Mesopotamia. His work, with members of the Nippur team and the Belgian Expedition in Iraq, on environment and settlement patterns is another aspect of the same research. During this year, he worked with Robert D. Biggs in collecting and editing the contributions to the volume *The Organization of Power: Aspects of Bureaucracy in the Ancient Near East* (SAOC 46), which was the result of a symposium he organized in 1984.