

Introduction

William M. Sumner

I am really just the guest editor for this *Annual Report*, which covers the final year of Janet Johnson's six year tenure as Director. I will begin by recalling some of her accomplishments during those years. In the *Annual Report* for 1982-83 outgoing Director Robert McC. Adams, commenting on Johnson's appointment, listed some of the "... challenges I have left behind to await her attention..." The three areas selected by Adams to illustrate those challenges were, first, for the archaeological field projects, to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and to introduce computer data management in the field and in the laboratory. Second, to find an adequate source of funding for the invaluable work of the Epigraphic Survey in Egypt as federal sources of funding through the foreign currency program came to an end. And, third, to maintain the high standards of the Institute's publication program in a time of increasing costs and technological revolution in methods of production.

♦ It is certainly a well deserved tribute to Janet Johnson's dedication and perseverance to say that significant progress has been made in all of those areas. New archaeological projects incorporating a variety of interdisciplinary dimensions have been initiated in Jordan at Aqaba, in Syria along the upper Euphrates, and at Tell Yaquash in Israel. Computer mapping, data management, and computer assisted drafting systems are now regularly used by archaeological projects in the field from Nippur to Luxor and in laboratories at the Oriental Institute. The Epigraphic Survey

♦ survived the end of the foreign currency program and continues to conduct annual field seasons due to Johnson's unwavering support and to the intensive successful fund raising effort of Lanny Bell and Carlotta Maher. And finally, since 1984 the Publications Office has issued seventeen volumes, including *The Holmes Expedition to Luristan* (OIP 108), printed from camera ready copy produced on a computer in house. These are only some of the areas in which Janet Johnson provided outstanding leadership during her six years as Director. I know that I speak for the entire faculty and staff when I wish her well as she returns to teaching, the Demotic Dictionary, and her other research projects.

♦ We are now actively planning for the future development of the Institute, based on the solid foundation created by former Directors, the faculty, staff, volunteers, and our members and friends. We are planning the much needed renovation, modernization, and perhaps even some expansion of our facilities. Even more important, however, we are also reviewing the status of all our projects and individual scholarly activities to determine how we can increase support for all aspects of the research mission of the Institute. We are all excited by the many possibilities on the horizon, a number of which I hope to describe in detail in next year's *Annual Report*. Meanwhile, I will use *News & Notes* to keep you informed of progress over the coming year.

William M. Sumner
Director

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