

TELL ES-SWEYHAT EXPEDITION TO SYRIA

Thomas A. Holland

The final Oriental Institute archaeological field season at Tell es-Sweyhat, planned during 1996 (the 1994 season was not possible due to insufficient funding), again had to be put on hold, primarily due to a suspension of the National Endowment for the Humanities grant applications in October 1995 by the government for a one year time period. Future work at Sweyhat will be considered for 1997 if funding becomes available.

The Sweyhat model figurine discovered during the 1992 field season, depicting one of the earliest known examples of a domesticated horse in the Near East, continued to raise public notice during this year. A black and white illustration of the horse was requested by Byron Preiss Multimedia for inclusion in a CD-ROM entitled *The Timetables of Technology*, published by Simon and Schuster, due out in January 1997, with distribution in French, German, and English-speaking countries. The book is a reference for technological advances, beginning with the Stone Age up through the present day. Photographs of the horse were also requested for The Newseum, which is a new museum being designed to chronicle the history of journalism and will open during 1997 in Arlington, Virginia. A special exhibition of important discoveries from archaeological sites in Syria opened in The National Museum, Damascus, which included an enlarged, about 18 × 36 inches, color photograph of the Sweyhat horse.

Despite the enforced lull in fieldwork, much more progress was made during the year on the excavation report, "Excavations at Tell es-Sweyhat," by T. A. Holland, which is planned for publication during 1997.
