

EDITORIAL

At the Annual General Meeting, held on 1st December 1982, Professor Seton Lloyd relinquished the Presidency of the School, which he had filled with distinction for four years. To mark the occasion he was presented with a specially bound copy of *Iraq XLIV* (1982), which was dedicated to him in honour of his eightieth birthday.

In succession to Professor Lloyd, Lord Trevelyan was elected President. Unfortunately he was prevented by ill-health from attending the meeting, and in his absence the ex-President continued to preside.

At this meeting to mark the School's jubilee, Professor Oates gave the lecture entitled "Fifty Years of Mesopotamian Discovery". In this he reviewed the past work of the School, concentrating particularly on that large part of it with which he personally had been associated. The lecture fitted appropriately with the School's publication of the same name, *Fifty Years of Mesopotamian Discovery*, edited by John Curtis, which had been published earlier in the year.

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Another of the School's lectures given in 1982 was Dr. Julian Reade's "Urban Development at Tell Taya and related Mesopotamian sites", in which he showed the remarkable town plans which he and his architect, George Farrant, had recovered by surface survey at Tell Taya.

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The Bonham Carter Memorial Lecture 1983 was given on 22nd June 1983 by Dr. Michael Rogers on the subject of "The Library of the 'Abbāsid Caliphs (12th–13th centuries)". Dr. Rogers suggested how the contents of this lost Library could be reconstructed and showed slides of the many remarkable manuscripts which could be associated with it.

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In Iraq the archaeological effort of the School has been mainly directed to work in the area of the Eski Mosul Dam Salvage Project. The Director, Dr. Michael Roaf, selected a site, Tell Mohammed Arab near the village of Babneet, and began work in November 1982. He was supported by his wife, Susan Roaf, and by Jeremy Black (Assistant Director), Robert Killick (Secretary-Librarian), Jane Killick (Research Associate), and Dr. Geoffrey Summers (Fellow). Work continued throughout the winter, in often inclement conditions, until June 1983. The cliff section of the mound cut by the river, was excavated for a stretch of more than 100 m down through 2 m of Middle Assyrian and 4 m of Ninevite 5 occupation, reaching the earliest settlement of the site in the Late Uruk period. Dr. John Curtis joined the work to lead a

British Museum participation. Teams from the Universities of Edinburgh, under Dr. Trevor Watkins, and Manchester, under Mr. Charles Burney, also joined the expedition in April for preliminary seasons.

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Mr. Alastair Northedge (Fellow) has been in Baghdad completing his report on the 'Ana excavations of the previous year. He then completed a preliminary season's work on his Samarra survey project.

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Mr. J. N. Postgate returned to Abu Salabikh for a further season's excavations in which it was successfully demonstrated that the site was occupied in the Old Babylonian period, thus making its identification with ancient Ereš more probable. *Abu Salabikh Excavations*, Vol. 1: *The West Mound Surface Clearance* is now available. Readers are referred to the back cover of the Journal for details.

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Professor David Oates put in another season at Tell Brak in Spring 1983. Investigation continued in levels ranging from the mid-3rd to early 2nd millennium B.C., which have yielded a well-stratified ceramic sequence. Relations of the site with the contemporary Mari and Ebla are being explored.

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Other visitors to the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq included: Mr. J. P. Carswell, the Secretary of the British Academy, and his wife; Dr. J. C. Young (Royal Ontario Museum) and team, to excavate Tell Yemniyeh in the Haditha Dam Salvage Project; Lady Mallowan and Dr. Georgina Herrmann (twice), to work on Nimrud ivories in the Iraq Museum; Mr. Peter Hulin, to work on the Nimrud inscriptions of Shalmaneser III; Mr. Grant Frame and Dr. Gilbert McEwan (Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia Project), to collate texts in the Iraq Museum and at Nimrud; Miss S. Mynors (grant-holder), to undertake petrographic analysis of Early Dynastic pottery including Abu Salabikh material; Mr. T. F. Potts (grant-holder), to visit sites and museums and participate in the Abu Salabikh excavations.

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The following have retired from the Council: Sir Derek Riches, Professor James Barr, Mr. C. M. Dalley and Mrs. P. H. Hodgson; and the following new members have joined: Dr. S. P. Brock, Mr. S. L. Egerton, Mr. T. C. Mitchell, Dr. Joan Oates, Mr. J. J. Orchard.