

EDITORIAL

Our Journal's series of Editorials was inaugurated to mark the Silver Jubilee of the School, and the first one appeared in *Iraq* XVIII (1956), Autumn number. We hope that they have played their part in keeping our readers in immediate touch with the School's many activities. Looking back over the past twenty-five years covered by them, we find that we have compiled a valuable chronicle of the School's work and membership. As we approach the beginning of our second half-century, we look forward to carrying on this tradition side by side with continuing successful investigation of the antiquity of Iraq.

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The Third International Symposium on Assur, Babylon and the Hamrin sponsored by the Iraqi State Organization for Antiquities and Heritage was held in Baghdad from 14th to 21st November, 1982. Participants were conducted on memorable visits to Babylon, Assur and the Haditha Dam Rescue Project. Many members of the Council of the School and the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq took part in the Symposium and delivered papers: Dr. J. E. Curtis, "Ornaments from the Late Assyrian period in Assur and Ur"; R. G. Killick, "Neo-Babylonian flood control"; Lady Mallowan, "The Assyrian Tree"; Miss Jane Moon, "Early Dynastic pottery from Abu Salabikh and regional variation in Sumer"; Miss Siriol Mynors, "Scientific Analysis of Sumerian ceramics by neutron activation and their section analysis"; Dr. Joan Oates, "The Prehistory of Sumer in the light of new evidence from the Hamrin"; J. N. Postgate, "Abu Salabikh and Ebla"; Dr. M. D. Roaf, "Houses and temples of the 'Ubaid period"; Mrs. S. Roaf, "On the development of a waterproof mud-brick". These contributions amply attest the wide range of the School's interests.

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At the Annual General Meeting which was held on Wednesday, 25th November, 1981, Mr. J. N. Postgate, our retiring Baghdad Director, returning to take up his appointment at Cambridge, gave the lecture entitled "The Excavations at Abu Salabikh, 1981", a report on which will be published in the Autumn number of this Journal. Fortunately most of the team assembled for Autumn 1980 was able to take the field in March 1981, and the work continued to the end of May. The ED II-III building on the south side of Area E was investigated, adding some three courtyards and thirteen rooms to the plan, but not yet supplying a firm proof of the establishment's identity. Several intramural graves included one with unusually rich jewellery and other ornaments, and two disturbed burials containing at least three equid skeletons. The other main operation of the season was the clearance of 3600 sq. m.

of the surface south of Area A, exposing a quarter of ED I private houses. In the Uruk mound a small sounding was dug by Professor T. C. Young, Jr., of the Royal Ontario Museum. In the autumn, excavation concentrated on the West Mound, where a sounding sunk to water level gave a well stratified sequence from ED I down into Uruk levels, and provided useful amplification of the results of the surface clearance of 1977–78, the final report on which is now completed and will, it is hoped, be published next year.

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In Iraq, excavations were conducted at Qal'at 'Ana on 'Ana island, which is to disappear under the waters of the Haditha Dam. Dr. Michael Roaf, the Director of the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq, conducted the excavations, assisted by Dr. Alastair Northedge as Field Director. The site is both beautiful and interesting. The medieval mosque already excavated by the Iraqi State Organization for Antiquities and Heritage, was studied and a publication prepared. Three main areas were excavated, producing between them a good pottery sequence from Neo-Assyrian, through Parthian and Sasanian, to several phases of Islamic pottery. It is hoped to publish a preliminary report on the results in 1983.

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At the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq, Dr. Jeremy Black has been appointed Assistant Director, a post which he will take up in May 1982. He comes from a period of service on the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary Project, and his appointment will ensure that the Expedition's epigraphic work is in capable hands.

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For the future, a project to excavate sites threatened by a new dam at Eski Mosul was announced by the Iraqi State Organization for Antiquities and Heritage at November's International Symposium. The British Archaeological Expedition looks forward to participating in this project, and the first season is expected in the Autumn 1982.