

EDITORIAL

TO SIDNEY SMITH whose 77th Birthday falls on August 29th, 1966 we dedicate this and the following part of our Journal *Iraq*. We send him our best wishes for many happy returns of the day and for the continued happy retirement which he has so well earned. In this volume a number of his colleagues, friends and former pupils have made their contributions as a token of their friendship and gratitude. All scholars who have ventured to consult him in the past will remember the thought and care which he devoted to the answering of any questions brought to him, and to what pains he was prepared to go in helping with their problems.

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There is also a compelling reason for remembering him in this way, since it was he who founded and launched the Journal *Iraq*, of which volume I appeared in 1934. It is due to his imagination and enterprise that the British School of Archaeology in Iraq took the necessary steps for its production; to him we owe the practical format and distinguished appearance which has well survived the test of time. Smith was editor of the first two volumes and we hope that it gives him every satisfaction to know that in this year, 1966, it has attained its twenty-eighth volume. Our Journal has met with international approval and finds its way to libraries and to private subscribers all over the world. Many of the early volumes are now out of print and some have been re-issued this year to meet the demands of an increasing number of subscribers for back numbers.

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The Journal is issued in two parts, in the spring and autumn every year, and it is by no means easy to achieve this double issue on time, for authors are not always prompt in sending in their manuscripts and procrastination often goes hand in hand with scholarship. But nevertheless we owe a great debt to the hundreds of scholars and archaeologists who have so often burned the midnight oil in order to send in contributions which have enriched our knowledge of Western Asia, and have generously made known to us the discoveries which have been made in Iraq over the past forty years. The only interruption to those contributions was inevitably due to the second World War, which made it impossible to issue the two parts between 1941 and 1945,

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but even over that period a supplement was issued in 1944-45 concerning Iraq Government excavations at 'Aqar Qūf 1942-1944.

We hope that it may be possible to continue issuing two parts a year for some time to come, since in this way additions to the archaeology in Mesopotamia are rapidly disseminated, but we have to bear in mind the possibility that financial and administrative difficulties may eventually cause us to be content, like other Journals, with one issue per year.

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Perhaps we may be excused from expressing some pride in the record of excavations which have been due to the School's activities in the field, as well as in its exemplary, prompt publication of results year after year. We hope that the School will continue to adhere to this principle and that it will never allow a substantial backlog of unpublished work to accumulate. In this issue the present Director of the School, Mr David Oates, has again fulfilled his obligation in presenting the account of the second season's work at Tell Rimah in the Jebel Sinjar, where so many fruitful discoveries have been made concerning the history, archaeology and architecture of Assyria in the second millennium B.C. We hope that this work will be of particular interest to Sidney Smith who through the medium of many articles, through his contributions to volume III of *The Cambridge Ancient History*, and through his own work *The Early History of Assyria*, has given us so much important and imaginative guidance in the pursuit of these studies.

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We take this opportunity also to pay tribute to Mr. S. J. Wadlow who has been associated with the printing of *Iraq* since 1946. He has been with our printers, Messrs. Harrison and Sons, for forty-two years and is retiring at the end of this year. It will be appreciated that few individuals possess the technical ability to supervise typesetting which has included cuneiform, Hebrew, Arabic, Syriac and Greek scripts as well as Egyptian hieroglyphs. Mr. Wadlow has handled most of the archaeological publications printed by the firm including, besides this Journal, *Ancient Egypt*, *The Palestine Quarterly Statement* (latterly *Palestine Exploration Quarterly*) and a number of publications issued by the British Museum.