

EDITORIAL

As a contribution to the proceedings of the XXIII Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, held at the University of Birmingham, July 1976, the British School of Archaeology in Iraq has accepted papers read at that meeting and appertaining to Trade for publication in *Iraq* XXXIX (1977). The papers will be divided between Part 1, presented here, and Part 2, which will also contain other articles and archaeological reports. The British School of Archaeology in Iraq will also make these Rencontre papers available as a separate volume under the title *Trade in the Ancient Near East*. Details appear on the back cover and on an inset order form.

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The Council records with sadness the sudden death of Dr. Neville Williams, Secretary of the British Academy, who from 1973–77 served on the Council and gave much invaluable advice and encouragement.

Sir John Pope-Hennessy has resigned from the Council on retirement as Director of the British Museum, and his successor Dr. D. M. Wilson has consented to serve on the Council. The Royal Society for Asian Affairs has appointed Sir Derek Riches, K.C.M.G., to act as its representative on the Council.

We are grateful to John Graham, C.M.G., Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador to Iraq, for his support as Vice-President during his term of office 1975–77, and we welcome his successor A. J. D. Stirling, C.M.G., who has consented to act as Vice-President.

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Our principal archaeological activity during the past year has been our continued support of the excavations of Abu Salabikh led by J. N. Postgate, Director of the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq. A report of his 1976 season's work there will appear in Part 2 of this volume. Further excavation is planned for the coming autumn.

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Professor David Oates gave a lecture on the 1976 excavations at Tell Brak, Syria, at the 43rd Annual General Meeting of the School, held at the British Academy on 2 December 1976. His work, supported by the School, resumes our traditional interest in the site dating back to Sir Max Mallowan's work there in 1937–38, and revealed a temple contemporary with the Naram-Sin palace immediately outside its eastern wall, and beneath it traces of an earlier, probably religious, building of the Early Dynastic period.

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Miss T. M. I. Newbould, the energetic Secretary/Accountant of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, Baghdad, from 1969–74 died in March 1977. Theodora will be remembered by members of the School with affection and gratitude for her unfailing helpfulness and many acts of kindness.

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After more than fifteen years of loyal and untiring service as Honorary Secretary, Miss G. C. Talbot has retired from that office, although she will continue to look after an increasingly important aspect of the School's work in the demanding capacity of Assistant Secretary (Publications). The School is glad to have the opportunity to express its gratitude for all her work on its behalf. From June 1976 Mrs. N. Shaw Reade has taken up the position of Assistant Secretary. J. D. Hawkins as Honorary Secretary of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq will co-ordinate the work of Miss Talbot and Mrs. Reade, and these new administrative arrangements should ensure the steady progress of the School in its varied activities.

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From 26 July–29 November 1976 the School jointly with the Institute of Archaeology sponsored an exhibition of photographs prepared by the Department of Archaeology of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne relating to the work of Gertrude Bell.

This was held at the Institute of Archaeology, where it was organized by Mrs. Reade. The attendance was good, and over 600 copies of the booklet, *Gertrude Bell, 1868–1926: a selection from the photographic archives of an archaeologist and traveller* (Department of Archaeology, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1976), by Stephen Hill, were sold. The Exhibition is currently touring other centres.

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Miss Kathleen Beatty retired from her post as Secretary to the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq in January 1977, since when the Director in Baghdad has had assistance from the Fellow, Miss Jane Moon. The Council wishes to thank Professor O. R. Gurney, University of Oxford, for accepting its invitation to be visiting lecturer in Baghdad in April 1977.