

EDITORIAL

The year has been overshadowed by the terrible events in Kuwait and Iraq. Fortunately no member of the School's staff was present in Iraq after June 1990. We are assured that the premises occupied by the British Archaeological Expedition were not damaged during the hostilities, and thanks to the care and attention of our local staff, our vehicles, library and property remain in good condition.

Naturally no field work has been possible in Iraq this year. Our Director, Dr. R. A. Matthews has been taking advantage of enforced absence from Iraq to undertake research into the 1920's excavations at Jemdet Nasr, and to continue with his study of seal impressions from Jemdet Nasr and Ur. In support of these projects he has visited Chicago and Philadelphia.

The Assistant Director, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, has been preparing for publication a monograph on archaeological settlement systems within northern Iraq, and has begun a detailed study of the archaeological information obtainable for the Eski Mosul and North Jezirah project areas.

The Secretary-Librarian, Miss Helen Macdonald, has been occupied with research in the School's own archives with a view to providing a detailed account of the materials excavated by the School under Sir Max Mallowan and Professor David Oates at Nimrud. She has also reorganized the School's holdings of Nimrud pottery, and worked on an atlas of Mesopotamian archaeology.

In Syria Professor David Oates and Dr. Joan Oates completed a successful twelfth season of excavations at Tell Brak. A report on the 1990 and 1991 seasons' work appears below in the present volume.

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Dr. Erica Hunter was appointed as the School Fellow for a second year to continue her work on incantation bowls in the Iraq Museum; in the event she had to spend the year continuing her research in Cambridge.

Grants were also made to Mr. David Schofield to act as illustrator for the publication of work in the North Jezirah, to Mr. R. K. Falkner to prepare for publication a typology of the surface pottery at Samarra, and to Mr. David Tucker to prepare for publication his sherd survey at Balawat.

With the temporary cessation of field-work the School has taken the opportunity to catch up with its outstanding commitments to publish the results of its excavations, and grants have been given to Mr. Warwick Ball, for the preparation of a first report on the Saddam Dam excavations, to Dr. Michael Roaf, for the preparation of the first volume of his report on the excavations at Tell Mohammed Arab, and to Mrs. Carolyn Postgate to complete a volume on the pottery from Tell Rimah.

During the year the School made loans from its holdings of Nimrud ivories to exhibitions in Glasgow (the Burrell Collection), Hannover (Kestner Museum) and Hamburg (Hamburger Museum für Archäologie), and from its holdings of Nimrud pottery to an exhibition in the British Museum.

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We are pleased to report that HBM Ambassador to Iraq, Sir Harold Walker, has agreed to become a Vice-President of the School in succession to Sir Terence Clark.

We are also pleased to welcome as new members of Council Dr. Andrew George, Professor David Harris, and Dr. Michael Roaf.

The Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. B. F. Walker, has resigned from the post, which he has filled for seven years. Mrs. Leri Glynne Davies, who has served as Assistant Secretary since 1979, has accepted the appointment as Secretary in his place.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 4 December 1990. Following the meeting Dr. Trevor Watkins lectured on his excavations at Qermez Dere, under the title "Qermez Dere and the aceramic neolithic of north Iraq".

The School's summer lecture was given by the Director, Dr. Roger Matthews on Thursday 21 June 1990 under the title "Mesopotamian proto-history and current research at Jemdet Nasr".

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