

EDITORIAL

The Director of the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq, Mr. J. N. Postgate, has been appointed Lecturer in the Ancient History and Archaeology of the Near East at the University of Cambridge in succession to Miss J. M. Munn-Rankin. His term of office as Director has been marked by a most fruitful increase in academic and field activity. In addition to his own field-work at Abu Salabikh and in the Hamrin Basin, he has pioneered the reports on Excavations in Iraq which have become a regular feature of this journal. Further excavations at Abu Salabikh, under his direction, took place from March to May 1981 and are planned for this autumn.

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It was with sorrow that we recently learnt of the death of Miss Margaret Munn-Rankin on 28th July, 1981, so soon after her retirement; she had taught at Cambridge since 1949. She was a member of our Council for a number of years and had also participated in the School's work in Iraq. She will be much missed.

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The Council has appointed Dr. Michael Roaf to be Director of the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq after Mr. Postgate. Dr. Roaf was previously Assistant Director and will be directing excavations in connection with the Haditha Dam project.

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1982 will be the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq. In accordance with the decision of the XXVIIIth Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in Vienna, the XXIXth Rencontre will be held in London from 5th to 9th July, 1982, to mark this Jubilee. It is proposed to devote one day to papers relating to excavations and discoveries by the School and another day will concentrate on the art and architecture of Mesopotamia.

Further details of the Jubilee celebrations will be given to members in due course, but readers will wish to note that a volume entitled "Fifty Years of Mesopotamian Discovery" will be published to mark the event and will include chapters on all the excavations conducted on behalf of the School.