

## EDITORIAL

The Annual General Meeting of the School was held at the British Academy on 29th November 1974. Mrs. Diana Helbaek gave an illustrated lecture on her last season's work at Umm Dabaghiyah details of which are published in this part of the Journal. The School is most grateful to her for the years she has spent both in excavation and as Director in Iraq, from which office she retired last September.

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Due to the local situation it has unfortunately not been possible for Dr. Julian Reade to carry through the spring season of work planned at Tell Taya. It is hoped, however, that Mr. Nicholas Postgate will be able to continue work this autumn at Tell Abu Šalabikh, 14 miles NW of Nippur, where he undertook a survey in 1972. This site was occupied early in the fourth millennium B.C. and abruptly abandoned c. 2600 B.C. Previous excavation there in 1963 and 1965 yielded some remarkable early literary texts, now published by R. D. Biggs, *Inscriptions from Tell Abū Šalābikh* (1974).

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Mr. Nicholas Postgate was appointed Director of the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq in October 1974. Fellowships were awarded to Miss Kathleen Beatty (University of Birmingham) for work on texts relating to the goddess Inanna-Ishtar, and to Mr. H. F. Russell (University of Cambridge) to study the architecture of tombs of the IIIrd Dynasty of Ur and related materials.

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A notable event in the history of the School is the inauguration of a Lecture to be called "The Bonham-Carter Memorial Lecture", thanks to the generosity of Lady Bonham-Carter, herself a supporter of the School since its foundation and a member of Council for many years. Her husband, Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter, was one of the creators of the School and held office as Chairman from its inception until 1950 (see *Iraq* 18 (1956), i-ii).

The first Lecture was delivered by Professor Seton Lloyd, on *Aspects of Mesopotamian Architecture*, at the British Academy on 4th March 1975, when the President took the chair.

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Equally noteworthy is the decision of the Council to institute on behalf of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq a *Gertrude Bell Memorial Medal* for presentation from time to time for outstanding archaeological or similar work in Iraq. This will be paid for from funds left on trust by Gertrude Bell. Further details, including the design by Mrs. Seton Lloyd, will feature in a future number of *Iraq*.

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We are grateful to Dame Kathleen Kenyon who represented the Board of Oriental Studies, Oxford University, on the Council from 1969–74 (as earlier she had London University). She has been succeeded in this by Mr. P. Hulin. Sir John Pope-Hennessy (Director of the British Museum) and Sir John Richmond (lately University of Durham) were both elected members of Council in 1974.