

EDITORIAL NOTE

*The Griffith Institute for the Archaeology of the Near East in the
Ashmolean Museum, Oxford*

ON 21 January Sir Frederic Kenyon, in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor and a large gathering, performed the opening ceremony of this new wing of the Ashmolean, which had long been the dream of Professor and Mrs. Ll. Griffith, and it is by their munificent bequests that the vision which these two devoted scholars had so long kept before them has now been realized. As the Keeper of the Ashmolean, Mr. E. T. Leeds, said at the ceremony, it is now thirty years since the Reader in Egyptology expressed a desire for a room in the Ashmolean, wherein he might work in proximity to his Egyptian collections, and bring his students into closer touch with himself in their research, and it is from this small beginning that has sprung this palatial wing of the Ashmolean, which consists of four floors, three of which have been allotted to Egyptology and Assyriology, the ground floor being devoted to other forms of archaeological pursuits. Outstanding in importance are the two great special libraries, the Griffith Library and the Sayce Library, each in its own line one of the most complete collections of Egyptian and Assyrian books in the country. Of the rooms themselves it may be said that not only are there rooms specially allotted to the Professor of Egyptology and the Reader in Assyriology, but there are also rooms for instruction, for the work of students, and for the housing of papyri and cuneiform tablets, of which the Ashmolean has now a large collection.

By the inauguration of the Griffith Institute the University of Oxford becomes a great centre for the study of the archaeology of the Near East.

The Editor has received the following:

The Griffith Institute,
Ashmolean Museum,
Oxford.
March 10th, 1939.

Dear Sir,

May I ask for the help of readers of *Iraq* in tracing statues and inscribed blocks which have been removed from their original positions in Egypt? At the Griffith Institute at Oxford, we are preparing a record of Egyptian antiquities in private possession, and are also looking for drawings and old diaries of travel in Egypt in the nineteenth century, many of which contain copies or descriptions of monuments now destroyed. I shall be very glad to hear from anyone knowing of the existence of such objects (especially statues and stelae) or papers in private houses.

Yours faithfully,
ROSALIND MOSS.

To the Editor of 'Iraq'.

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