

EDITORIAL

The year 1986 saw the sixtieth anniversary of the death of Gertrude Bell, in whose memory the British School of Archaeology in Iraq was founded in 1932. Her grave in Baghdad was restored with the help of a grant from the World of Islam Festival Trust.

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It was appropriate that the School was able to commemorate Gertrude Bell's death in its Summer Lecture held jointly with the Royal Geographical Society in their premises on 29 May 1986. This was given by Miss Lynn Ritchie, Research Associate at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, under the title "Gertrude Bell's photographs, letters and journals", materials which she was currently engaged in organizing.

At the Annual General Meeting Dr. John Curtis gave the lecture entitled "British Museum Excavations in the Eski Mosul Area", in which he gave an account of the work which he had been directing.

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In Baghdad, Dr. Jeremy Black is completing his first year as Director of the British Archaeological Expedition. As an Assyriologist he represents a break with the School's tradition of directors who were field archaeologists. He has been working on Nimrud tablets from the Nabu Temple, in preparation of a new volume of Cuneiform Texts from Nimrud in collaboration with Professor D. J. Wiseman. This is nearing completion. He has also been working on Ur texts from earlier British excavations.

Mr. Warwick Ball, previously acting as Field Director of the Eski Mosul excavations in the Saddam Dam Salvage Project, has been appointed Assistant Director of the British Archaeological Expedition and continues to lead the School's principal excavations.

Mr. Roger Matthews has been appointed Secretary-Librarian in succession to Mr. Robert Killick, and has been energetically pursuing his duties in the library and office, as well as taking part in the Abu Salabikh excavations.

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The School's operations in the area of the Saddam Dam Salvage Project completed their final phase with a move upstream from the flooded Babneet area, to the area of Tell Abu Dhahir. Here a season of excavations from October 1985 to April 1986 was conducted by Warwick Ball and his team with the purpose of sounding as many sites in the area as possible, principally the large multi-period site of Tell Abu Dhahir itself, and six further sites, including Tell Shelgiya where Dr. Trevor Watkins led the expedition from the University of Edinburgh. Dr. John Curtis was also present with a British Museum team. During 1986 the area has been gradually disappearing under the waters of the dam, and the whole Salvage Project has effectively come to an end.

A further salvage project in the North Jazirah is being necessitated by the Jazirah Irrigation Project, and the School is turning its attentions in this direction, beginning with a season of survey centred on Tell al-Hawa in autumn 1986.

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On the School's other sponsored excavations, Mr. Nicholas Postgate dug at Abu Salabikh from the beginning of March to 15 May 1986, clearing and planning a further area and excavating a large ED III house with seven intramural graves. The School's Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Leri Glynn Davies, took part in the excavations. Professor David Oates conducted the eighth season of excavations at Tell Brak from 16 March to 1 June 1986, concentrating on the sequence of 4th millennium occupation, and remains of the Akkadian and post-Akkadian periods and of the Mitanni palace. The School's President, Lady Mallowan, was a member of the excavation team.

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In Baghdad Dr. Ellen McAdam was again awarded the Fellowship, to continue her work on prehistoric figurines. Visitors to the School included, besides the members of the excavation teams, Professor Claus Wilcke, epigraphist to the German Isin Expedition; and Miss J. D. Hall, Macquarie University, Sydney, to study Assyrian reliefs of Nineveh and Nimrud.

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The School was sad to learn of the death on 18 April of Mr. Charles Wilkinson, formerly Curator of Ancient Near Eastern Art at the Metropolitan Museum, New York, and a long-standing member of Council. His support of the Nimrud Excavations had been a major factor in their success.

Mr. John Springford resigned from the Council, thus terminating an association with the School which went back to his term as the British Council's representative in Baghdad. Among the nominated members, Dr. Sebastian Brock (Oxford University) was succeeded by Dr. Stephanie Dalley; and Miss E. Mackenzie (Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford) was succeeded by Dr. S. R. F. Price.

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The publication of the Nimrud Ivories was resumed with the appearance in the autumn 1986 of *Ivories from Nimrud*, fascicule IV: *Ivories from Room SW37, Fort Shalmaneser*, by Dr. Georgina Herrmann. The group consists of ivories from the West, showing northern, intermediate and southern traditions of carving. The volume is the fruit of a number of years of research by Dr. Herrmann including work in the Iraq Museum, Baghdad. A detailed advertisement is enclosed in the present volume.