

EDITORIAL

The Annual General Meeting of the School, held in the Rooms of the British Academy on Wednesday, 29th November, 1978, was preceded by a Memorial Service for our late President, Professor Sir Max Mallowan, in the Church of St. James, Piccadilly. An address was given by Professor Seton Lloyd in which he recalled the career of Sir Max and his services to Archaeology and to our School. At the Annual General Meeting itself, the chair was taken by Lord Trevelyan, who also paid a tribute to Sir Max.

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At the same meeting, Professor Seton Lloyd was elected to fill the vacant office of President, a fitting recognition of his distinguished career and long association with Mesopotamian archaeology.

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Professor David Oates gave the lecture at the Annual General Meeting, entitled "The Excavations at Tell Brak, 1978", in which he reported on the second post-war season at this site. Work was continued in the area east of the Agade palace and elsewhere. The most important result of the season was the recovery of a sequence of material from the 4th to the late 3rd millennium B.C., and notably a tablet of the late Uruk period inscribed with numerals, the first of its type to be found in northern Mesopotamia.

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In Iraq, the work of the British Archaeological Expedition continues in two areas, on our principal site at Abu Salabikh and on the Jebel Hamrin Rescue Project, with greater concentration on the latter in view of the urgency of the enterprise. In this area a first season of excavation was conducted from December 1977–May 1978 by collaboration of the School and the Royal Ontario Museum under the joint direction of our Director J. N. Postgate and Dr. T. Cuyler Young. This was supported by funds from the School, the British Academy and the Royal Ontario Museum with considerable practical assistance from the Iraqi State Antiquities Organization who sponsored the Project. Excavation was mainly concentrated at Tell Madhhur, a largely Ubaid period site with well-furnished Akkadian graves. A site on the right bank of the Narin Chay, Tell Rubeidheh, was also sounded. A second season was conducted at Tell Madhhur from October–December 1978 with Mr. R. G. Killick and Dr. Michael Roaf as field directors, and a spring season 1979 here and at Tell Rubeidheh is currently in progress. Preliminary reports on this work have been submitted to the Iraqi State Antiquities Organization for inclusion in a projected volume of Jebel Hamrin Excavation Reports, and a summary will appear in our Journal's Autumn number 1979 in our series "Excavations in Iraq".

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At Abu Salabikh, the Director conducted a fourth season of work from October–December 1978. It is hoped to publish a full report of this season in the Journal's Autumn number 1979, or the following Spring.

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We offer our warmest congratulations to Professor Emeritus Sidney Smith who will celebrate his ninetieth birthday on the 29th August, 1979. He was this Journal's founder and first editor (1934–1936) and a specially bound volume of essays prepared in honour of his seventy-seventh birthday was presented to him (*Iraq* XXVIII, part 2–XXIX, part 2) to mark that occasion. We send to him and to Mrs. Sidney Smith our continuing best wishes.

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This Journal's fifth editor, Professor D. J. Wiseman (following Smith, Campbell Thompson, Gadd and Mallowan), has retired from the editorship in 1978 after twenty-five years in harness. During this period he has combined the role of Editor with that of one of our most prolific contributors, and in the latter capacity has presented for the first time many remarkable new discoveries, particularly from the Nimrud epigraphic material, to the world of learning. His years of service are remembered with gratitude and we are fortunate in that he will continue to be at hand for advice and consultation. Mr. J. D. Hawkins, who has been associated in the editorship with Professor Wiseman since 1971, will continue as Editor and is being joined by Dr. Dominique Collon.

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As visiting lecturers Lady Mallowan and Dr. Joan Oates both went to Baghdad. Lady Mallowan attended a conference convened by the Iraqi State Antiquities Organization on "Assur, Babylon and the Jebel Hamrin" and read a paper on Middle Assyrian seals from Assur. Dr. Oates visited the current Hamrin excavations of the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq and studied the pottery from Tells Madhhur and Rubeidheh.

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Other visitors to Baghdad included: Dr. J. F. Healey (University College, Cardiff) to study medieval sites and manuscripts in Iraq; Dr. Geoffrey King (American University, Cairo) to study Islamic art and architecture; Mr. A. R. George (University of Birmingham) to pursue his research on the "Topography of Babylon"—paper on this subject read at the Iraqi State Antiquities Organization conference on the Jebel Hamrin.

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In Baghdad, Miss Jane Moon served as Secretary-Accountant to the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq for one year and was succeeded in this post by Mr. Philip Watson.

In London, Mrs. N. Shaw Reade who had served the School as Assistant Secretary for one year, resigned and was succeeded in this post by Mrs. Leri Glynne Davies.