



In honour of
RICHARD DAVID BARNETT
C.B.E., M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A., F.S.A.

Richard Barnett, whose seventy-fifth birthday on 23rd January 1984 we celebrate with the publication of this volume, has been associated with our Institute since its foundation, as a council member from 1949 to 1969 and again from 1974 onwards, as Honorary Librarian from 1958 to 1969, and as Vice-President from 1961 to 1969. Anatolia, forming a bridge between the Near East and the Aegean, reflects the route by which he himself came to Near Eastern studies, and the cultural links between the two areas have been of lasting interest to him. So too has been the study of the late Hittite states and Urartu.

Richard's father, the late Lionel David Barnett, had been a most distinguished Keeper of Oriental Printed Books and Manuscripts at the British Museum, and it was a natural move that after graduating from Cambridge in 1930 as a classicist and spending 2 years as a student of the British School at Athens he should join his father in the Museum in 1932, being invited to the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities by Sidney Smith. He enjoyed two short seasons in the field, with Max Mallowan at Chagar Bazar in 1935 and with John Garstang at Mersin in 1938. Since then, although maintaining a lively interest in field-work, he has devoted his own career primarily to museum archaeology.

Within the Museum his early career was inevitably interrupted by war service, part of which was spent in Turkey, and the subsequent major task of re-organisation of the department and the restoration of its collections. Consequently the major project of his early years, the Catalogue of the Nimrud Ivories in the British Museum, did not come to publication until 1957. In the preceding year he had become a Keeper when the Trustees of the British Museum, in fulfilment of a long-felt need, split the old and unwieldy Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities into two new departments, one for Egyptian and the other for Western Asiatic Antiquities. Richard was put in charge of the latter department, and he set about organizing and directing it with characteristic energy and determination. The significance and success of his Keepership has been obvious to everyone. The space available in the Museum to exhibit the treasures of Western Asia has been significantly increased, and the whole atmosphere of the displays dramatically improved. To the public at large Richard's most obvious monument will be the new galleries built to house the Assyrian reliefs. For his academic colleagues there has been a steady stream of definitive catalogues of the Museum's collections prepared under his overall direction and the continuation of the monumental publication of the Ur excavation reports. Perhaps most important of all has been his encouragement of work on the cuneiform tablet collections. It was perhaps inevitable that it would take an archaeologist to break the hundred-year-old tradition of secrecy about the tablet collections and initiate a major series of cuneiform catalogues, now nearing publication, but the effect has been to influence profoundly every aspect of Assyriological research. The Assyriologists' contributions to this volume are a small token of the debt owed to Richard for his making the Students' Room of his department the preeminent centre for original research on cuneiform texts.

Richard's bibliography published in this volume gives some indication of the breadth of his interests. The Sculptures of Ashurbanipal is his weightiest work. Other major works on the sculptures of Sennacherib, on the Balawat

Gates, and on the Tharros cemetery are still to come. Of particular interest to our Institute are his publications on the excavation at Carchemish and on Urartian archaeology, and his recent contributions to the Cambridge Ancient History on the Sea Peoples, the Phrygians, and Urartu; but there is hardly a corner of Near East to which he has not made a contribution. He has also played a very full part, in lecturing as well as writing, in the essential work of communicating scholarship to the public. A separate account of his contribution to Anglo-Jewish Studies and Judaica with an additional bibliography is to be published by the Jewish Historical Society.

One of Richard's abiding interests has been in the personalities of archaeology, and in a volume in his honour we cannot fail to salute his own personality. Above all he has been a man of passionate determination to fight for the archaeology he loves. Anyone who has sat on one of the many committees to which he has given so much time, who has enjoyed working with him in his own Department, or who has only listened to a few of his many lectures has been made unforgettably aware of his determination to advance his chosen field of archaeology by all means possible. To those who have earned his respect he has been a model of charm and generosity. Sometimes we have witnessed his scorn for folly or his wrath at sloth; but always it has sprung from a deep concern to see real progress made. Near Eastern archaeology has had few so redoubtable champions. His friends and admirers are innumerable, and but few of them have been able to contribute to this volume. We offer it to him on behalf of all of them with affection.