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BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ

(Gertrude Bell Memorial)

5 NEW SQUARE, LINCOLN'S INN, LONDON, W.C.2



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REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st MAY, 1956



THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD IN THE ROOMS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, 1 KENSINGTON GORE, ON TUESDAY, 6th NOVEMBER, 1956, AT 5 P.M., TO HEAR PROFESSOR MALLOWAN; TO CONSIDER THE ACCOUNTS, THE BALANCE SHEET AND THE REPORTS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE AUDITOR; TO ELECT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL; TO APPOINT AN AUDITOR; AND FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH MAY PROPERLY BE TRANSACTED. AFTER THE MEETING THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

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\*Member of Executive Committee

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

THE School has suffered a grievous loss by the death of Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter, K.C.M.G., who was chiefly responsible for its organization. After the death of Gertrude Bell, who had bequeathed a legacy towards its foundation, he called a public meeting, collected additional funds and drafted the regulations which were adopted for its governance. He was Chairman of the Executive Committee from its inception in 1932 and held office until 1950 when he retired, on his eightieth birthday. Even after his retirement, however, he continued to watch the School's activities with unabated interest. It was his especial wish that the School should publicly celebrate its Jubilee this year. Consequently, an exhibition has been arranged in the Assyrian Basement of the British Museum, by kind permission of the Trustees, for a period of two months, from 14th November. The exhibition will be formally opened by Sir Leonard Woolley. It will consist of objects, photographs and drawings to illustrate twenty-five years of the School's archaeological activities. A commemorative booklet and guide to mark the occasion has been written by Professor Mallowan.

The School's Expedition returned in the spring of 1956 for its seventh season at Nimrud, when the excavation of the Nabu Temple and South-East Building was completed. Valuable additions were made to the collection of religious and historical texts once contained in its library, and proof was at last obtained that Calah (Nimrud) was burnt some time between 614 and 612 B.C. when the Assyrian Empire came to an end. The stratigraphic examination of this long-inhabited part of the city was concluded and a sequence of many settlements was observed from the time of Adad-nirari III, c. 800 B.C., through to the Hellenistic villages which were founded over the Assyrian ruins and existed until about the third and fourth centuries B.C.

Excavations were also conducted in the Ninurta temple near the Ziggurat where some remarkable foundation deposits of beads and cylinder seals were discovered as well as the temple-magazines in which stood big oil-jars with their capacity measures marked upon them. Elsewhere at the south end of the outer town a series of large public buildings with painted murals dating from the time of Assur-bani-pal were excavated. It is possible that one of these buildings was the headquarters of the commander-in-chief, who could have reviewed large numbers of men in its immense halls.

This season will, however, chiefly be remembered for the excavations conducted at Balawat (near Nimrud) where Rassam had recovered the famous bronze gates of Shalmaneser III in 1877. Any doubts which may have existed about the authenticity of that discovery were finally dispelled by the recovery of the plan of the

temple of Mahir and another set of bronze gates decorated in *repoussé* with scenes of the military triumphs won by Assur-nasir-pal II. These gates had been smashed and burnt, probably at the end of the seventh century B.C., together with the other royal cities of Assyria. Balawat up to that time must have been used as a country residence for the king.

Visitors who stayed at the School this year and were engaged in Oriental research included: Madame Moreau-Neret, from Paris; Mr. Charles Burney, and Miss V. Burton, a Fulbright Scholar. Those who took part in the excavations included: the Director and Mrs. Mallowan; Miss Barbara Parker; Miss Joan Lines (representing the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York); Mr. Hilary Waddington and Mr. Wallace Russell, Fellows of the School; Mr. J. Læssøe; Miss M. H. Howard and Mr. Anthony Wood.

We are again deeply indebted to the Director-General, Iraq Antiquities Department, H.E. Dr. Naji al Asil and to his staff for much help and kindness. Sayid Tarik el Madhlum, a valued and friendly colleague, was Iraqi representative to the Expedition.

Generous financial support for the dig was provided by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Birmingham City Museum, and Art Gallery; the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; Les Musées Royaux D'Art et D'Histoire, Bruxelles, and by the Iraq Petroleum Company which also lent the Expedition some invaluable machinery.

The 1956 issues of *Iraq* are detailed in a separate sheet.

On behalf of the Council,  
J. M. TROUTBECK,  
Chairman.

KEVIN O'C. HAYES,  
Hon. Secretary.

October, 1956.

