

Abu Salabikh Excavations

Volume I

THE WEST MOUND SURFACE CLEARANCE

by

J. N. Postgate

with contributions by

E. McAdam, J. Eidem, and J. Crowfoot Payne

pp. vii, 110, pls. I-XII

Price: £9.50

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ

(*Gertrude Bell Memorial*)

31-34 GORDON SQUARE, LONDON WC1H 0PY



Report & Accounts
for the year ended
31st March, 1983



THE FIFTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD IN THE ROOMS OF THE **BRITISH ACADEMY**, 20-21 CORNWALL TERRACE, LONDON, N.W.1., ON **THURSDAY, 1st DECEMBER, 1983, at 5 p.m.**, TO HEAR THE DIRECTOR, DR. MICHAEL ROAF, 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.

BEFORE THE MEETING THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

PRESIDENT
RT. HON. THE LORD TREVELYAN, K.G., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., C.B.E.

VICE-PRESIDENTS
PROFESSOR SETON LLOYD, C.B.E., M.A., F.B.A., A.R.I.B.A.
J. C. MOBERLY, C.M.G.

CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
*PROFESSOR D. J. WISEMAN, O.B.E., M.A., D.LIT., F.B.A., F.S.A.

VICE-CHAIRMAN
*PROFESSOR DAVID OATES, M.A., F.B.A., F.S.A.

HONORARY TREASURER
G. J. WARREN, A.L.B., F.C.I.S.

BANKERS
GRINDLAYS BANK p.l.c.
23 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3ED

AUDITORS
DEARDEN FARROW
1 Serjeants' Inn, London EC4Y 1JD

HONORARY SECRETARY
*J. D. HAWKINS, M.A.
31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MRS. L. GLYNNE DAVIES

ASSISTANT SECRETARY (Publications)
MISS G. C. TALBOT, M.A.

IN IRAQ
DIRECTOR OF THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO IRAQ
M. D. ROAF, M.A., D.PHIL.

EDITORS OF THE JOURNAL IRAQ
J. D. HAWKINS, M.A.
DOMINIQUE COLLON, M.A., PH.D.

TRUSTEES OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND
THE OFFICIAL CUSTODIAN FOR CHARITIES

COUNCIL

NOMINATED MEMBERS

REPRESENTING

S. P. BROCK, M.A., D.PHIL., F.B.A. Board of Oriental Studies, Oxford University
*PROFESSOR O. R. GURNEY, M.A., D.PHIL., F.B.A. Magdalen College, Oxford
J. F. HEALEY, M.A., PH.D. Durham University
SIR LAURENCE KIRWAN, K.C.M.G., T.D., B.LITT. Royal Geographical Society
MISS E. MACKENZIE, M.A., Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford
*P. R. S. MOOREY, D.PHIL., F.B.A., F.S.A. Society of Antiquaries
*PROFESSOR DAVID OATES, M.A., F.B.A., F.S.A. London University
JOAN OATES, M.A., PH.D.
Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge University
J. M. ROGERS, M.A., D.PHIL., F.S.A. Royal Society for Asian Affairs
PROFESSOR H. W. F. SAGGS, M.A., PH.D., F.S.A. Royal Asiatic Society
*E. SOLLBERGER, D.LITT., F.B.A. British Museum
T. WATKINS, B.A., PH.D. Edinburgh University
J. V. KINNIER WILSON, M.A., F.S.A.
Faculty of Oriental Studies, Cambridge University
*PROFESSOR D. J. WISEMAN, O.B.E., M.A., D.LIT., F.B.A., F.S.A.
School of Oriental and African Studies, London University

ELECTED MEMBERS

LADY BONHAM CARTER
*J. E. CURTIS, PH.D.
S. L. EGERTON, C.M.G.
PROFESSOR J. D. EVANS, M.A.,
PH.D., LITT.D., F.B.A., F.S.A.
*D. B. HARDEN, C.B.E., PH.D., F.S.A.
*J. D. HAWKINS, M.A.
PROFESSOR W. G. LAMBERT,
M.A., F.B.A.
*LADY MALLOWAN, O.B.E., F.S.A.
MRS. K. R. MAXWELL-HYSLOP,
F.S.A.
A. R. MILLARD, M.A., M.PHIL., F.S.A.
J. J. ORCHARD, M.A., F.S.A.
*J. N. POSTGATE, M.A.
J. F. C. SPRINGFORD, C.B.E., M.A.
MISS G. C. TALBOT, M.A.
RT. HON. THE LORD TREVELYAN,
K.G., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., C.B.E.
C. B. F. WALKER, M.A., B.PHIL.
CHARLES K. WILKINSON
D. M. WILSON, M.A., D.LITT., F.S.A.

**Member of Executive Committee.*

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

In honour of the School's Jubilee Year, the XXIXth Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale met in London from 5th to 9th July 1982 with a record number of participants. Many of the papers read were devoted to aspects of the past work of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, which produced a number of notable contributions, supplemented by many other papers on varied topics and the usual interesting excavation reports.

The occasion was also celebrated by the publication of *Fifty Years of Mesopotamian Discovery*, edited by Dr. John Curtis, in which the School's leading field archaeologists reviewed the excavations of the past half century. Later in the year, the School's publication of *Abu Salabikh Excavations, vol. I, The West Mound Surface Clearance*, by J. N. Postgate, inaugurated the series of final reports on that site.

The School's summer lecture was "Urban development at Tell Taya and related Mesopotamian sites" by Dr. Julian Reade, delivered on 3rd June 1982, at which he showed the remarkable town plans recovered by surface survey.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 1st December 1982. Professor Seton Lloyd relinquished the Presidency of the School, and to mark the occasion he was presented with a specially bound copy of *Iraq XLIV* (1982) which had been dedicated to him in honour of his eightieth birthday. He accepted nomination as Honorary Vice-President. He was succeeded as President by Lord Trevelyan.

As nominated members of Council, Professor James Barr was succeeded by Dr. S. P. Brock (Board of Oriental Studies, Oxford University); Dr. R. I. Lawless was succeeded by Dr. J. F. Healey (Durham University); Sir Derek Riches was succeeded by Dr. J. M. Rogers (Royal Society for Asian Affairs). Dr. P. R. S. Moorey was nominated by the Society of Antiquaries and Dr. Joan Oates was nominated by the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge University. Among the elected members, Mr. C. M. Dalley and Mrs. P. Hodgson resigned and Messrs S. L. Egerton and J. J. Orchard were elected.

Following the Annual General Meeting, Professor David Oates gave the lecture entitled, like the Jubilee Volume, "Fifty Years of Mesopotamian Discovery".

In Iraq, the year was one of intense archaeological activity for the School, and teams were in the field throughout the whole year except

for the hottest months of summer. From 17th April to 15th June 1982 the British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq, in cooperation with the Iraqi State Organization for Antiquities and Heritage, carried out excavations on the site of Sur Jur'eh in the Haditha Dam Salvage Project. A small team consisting of Michael and Susan Roaf and Robert and Jane Killick investigated the 8th century B.C. site where an Iraqi expedition had previously excavated and had discovered a cache of tablets dating to the time of Shamash-resh-usur and his son Ninurta-kudurri-usur, governors of Suhu and Mari. One of the main results of the season was the recording of the three defensive walls round the site, the outer of which was some 750 metres long.

Mr. Alastair Northedge and Miss Andrina Bamber (now Mrs. Northedge) worked on the preparation of the final report on the 1981-82 excavations at Qal'eh Island, 'Ana, from the 19th September 1982 to the end of the year. From the 3rd to the 22nd October they excavated on the island as part of the Haditha Dam Salvage Project of the State Organization for Antiquities and Heritage where they investigated Islamic and Sassanian levels in the ruined village. In the spring of 1983 they carried out a ground control survey of Samarra in preparation for an accurate photogrammetric mapping and the compilation of a gazetteer of the Samarra buildings.

The major British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq project—excavations in the Eski Mosul Dam Salvage Project—started in October 1982. On a visit to the area in March 1982 the site of Tell Mohammed 'Arab was selected as the most suitable for excavation. Based in a commodious dig-house in the nearby village of Babneet, and with the support of the Iraqi State Organization for Antiquities and Heritage, a small team consisting of Michael Roaf (Director), Robert Killick (Assistant Director), Susan Roaf, Jane Killick and Dr. Geoffrey Summers, worked continuously through one of the coldest winters on record. The results have more than compensated for the hardships. Tell Mohammed 'Arab lies on a cliff above the river Tigris and this season they excavated a stretch of the cliff section more than 100 metres long down through two metres of Middle Assyrian and four metres of Ninevite 5 occupation. The earliest remains on the site belong to the Late Uruk period, and above this are at least twelve building levels of the Ninevite 5 period. The Middle Assyrian levels include a substantial mud-brick building with a stone paved courtyard which is now being investigated. On the top of the site there is evidence for a Hellenistic settlement of which only pits have survived. In February 1983 Dr. John Curtis of the British Museum joined the team and carried out sondages on three of the sites in the vicinity. Excavations at Tell Mohammed 'Arab and sites in the region are continuing and with teams from the British Museum, Edinburgh

University and Manchester University it is hoped to excavate throughout the year.

At the end of February, Nicholas Postgate (Director) and Jane Killick (Assistant Director) led a large team to resume excavations at Abu Salabikh. This season has been very successful, demonstrating that the site was occupied into the Old Babylonian period, thus making its identification with ancient Ersh more probable. 3,800 square metres linking up areas A and B were investigated by surface scraping revealing more of the plan of the Sumerian city, and for the first time recognizably Early Dynastic II pottery (as defined in the Diyala) has been excavated on a southern site.

During the past year, visitors to the Baghdad establishment, besides members of the excavation teams, included: Miss Shiril Mynors, to work on the Abu Salabikh pottery in the Iraq Museum; Dr. Georgina Herrmann and Mr. Michael Sharp, to catalogue and photograph Nimrud ivories in the Iraq, Babylon and Mosul Museums; Mr. Peter Hulín, to examine inscriptions of Shalmaneser III; Dr. T. C. Young (Royal Ontario Museum) and team, to excavate Tell Yemich in the Haditha Dam Salvage Project; Mr. Grant Frame (Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia Project), to collate texts in the Iraq Museum.

The School wishes to record its gratitude to the State Organization for Antiquities and Heritage in Iraq, and its President Dr. Mu'ayyad Damerji, for all their assistance and cooperation in the substantial programme of work for the year.

D. J. WISEMAN,
Chairman.

J. D. HAWKINS,
Hon. Secretary.

M. D. ROAF,
Director.

G. J. WARREN,
Hon. Treasurer.

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ
(GERTRUDE BELL MEMORIAL)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st MARCH, 1983

1982	1983	1982	1983
£	£	£	£
8,200	8,200		
ENDOWMENT FUND: Balance as at 1st April, 1982			
BONHAM CARTER LECTURE FUND Balance as at 1st April, 1982 2,248 Add: Investment Income 218 Less: Lecture Fee (75) Loss on Investment (31)			
2,248	2,360	1,730	1,699
MALLOWAN FUND: Balance as at 1st April, 1982 2,660 Add: Investment Income 319 Less: Expenditure (388)			
2,660	2,591	2,500	2,500
WORKING FUND: Balance as at 1st April, 1982 49,683 Less: Shortfall for the year 290			
49,683	49,393	21,783	21,790
SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS FUND Balance as at 1st April, 1982 40,295 Less: Shortfall for the year 3,351			
40,295	36,944	34,150	34,150
5,504	5,504	68,363	68,339
CAPITAL RESERVE ACCUMULATED RESERVE FOR RENEWAL OF MOTOR VEHICLES (Note 1) 6,323 SUNDRY CREDITORS AND PROVISIONS 9,783			
6,323	7,323	1,999	2,241
9,783	12,121	581	33,920
INVESTMENTS (At cost) ENDOWMENT FUND 8,149 Income Shares in Charities Official Investment Fund 8,200 (Market Value £17,236; 1982 £13,755) BONHAM CARTER LECTURE FUND: Fixed Interest Securities (see page 10) (Market Value £1,710; 1982: £1,699) MALLOWAN FUND £2,600 12½% Exchequer Stock 1985 (Market Value £2,652; 1982: £2,396) WORKING FUND: Fixed Interest Securities (see page 10) (Market Value £21,942; 1982: £21,317) SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS FUND Fixed Interest Securities (see page 10) (Market Value £35,264; 1982: £33,223)			
TOTAL INVESTMENTS 68,363			
CURRENT ASSETS: INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE 2,241 DEBTORS AND PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE 33,920 BALANCES AT BANK: On Current Accounts 12,374 On Deposit Accounts 1,000 On Deposit Account for Customs Vehicle Indemnity 6,376			
CASH IN HAND: London 35 Baghdad 151			
TOTAL ASSETS <u>£124,436</u>			

£124,696

£124,436

£124,696

£124,436

Approved by the Council on 27th October, 1983

D. J. WISEMAN
G. J. WARREN
Chairman
Treasurer

In our opinion the Accounts set out on pages 7 to 10 give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the School at 31st March, 1983 and of the Income and Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

LONDON 28th October, 1983

DEARDEN FARROW,
Chartered Accountants.

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ
(GERTRUDE BELL MEMORIAL)

INCOME and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1983
WORKING FUND

	1982 £		1983 £		1982 £		1983 £	
		LONDON EXPENDITURE:				SUBSCRIPTIONS TO SCHOOL AND JOURNAL		
	18,204	Printing and Journal	14,263		4,094	...	4,527	
	10,679	Salaries and Office Expenses	14,796			...		
				29,059	6,881	OUTSIDE SALES OF JOURNAL	7,249	
∞	25,397	BAGHDAD EXPENDITURE:				INCOME FROM THE GERTRUDE BELL TRUST		11,776
	5,460	Staff	24,008		—	...		2,164
	10,410	Rent	20,653		90,000	BRITISH ACADEMY GRANT		110,796
	4,375	House and School Expenses	12,152		—	VARIOUS DONATIONS		1,500
	4,375	Fellowships and Visiting Scholars	12,870			INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS:		
	1,992	Library	1,379		3,266	On Investments	3,853	
	4,210	Travel	1,906		4,215	Bank Deposit	3,528	
	1,958	Sundry	2,282		276	GAIN ON SALE OF INVESTMENTS		7,381
				75,250	3,888	PROFIT ON EXCHANGE		1,395
	23,348	TRANSFER TO SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS FUND	30,000		—	SHORTFALL FOR THE YEAR		290
	3,000	AMOUNT SET ASIDE TOWARDS RENEWAL OF MOTOR VEHICLES	1,000					
	3,587	SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	—					
	<u>£112,620</u>		<u>£135,309</u>		<u>£112,620</u>		<u>£135,309</u>	

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ
(GERTRUDE BELL MEMORIAL)

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS and EXCAVATIONS FUND
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO 31st MARCH, 1983

	1982 £		1983 £		1982 £		1983 £
		EXCAVATIONS EXPENDITURE:				DONATIONS AND GRANTS FOR EXCAVATIONS:	
	1,402	Tell Taya	—			National Geographic Society — Abu Salabikh	10,992
	26,176	Abu Salabikh	19,499			British Museum — Abu Salabikh	3,000
	—	Ted Brak	5,000		14,049		13,992
	—	Eski Mosul	11,081			GRANT FOR PUBLICATIONS:	
	30	Jebel Hamrin	—		200	British Academy	—
	8,347	Haditha/Ana	5,126		296	SALES AND ROYALTIES	3,059
	545	Sundries	1,400		4,153	INVESTMENT INCOME	4,153
	36,500		42,106		23,348	TRANSFER FROM WORKING FUND	30,000
∞	5,546	SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS:	12,449		—	SHORTFALL FOR THE YEAR	3,351
	<u>£42,046</u>		<u>£54,555</u>		<u>£42,046</u>		<u>£54,555</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. FIXED ASSETS
The cost of fixed assets is written off in the year of acquisition. The cost of motor vehicles is set against the Accumulated Reserve for the Renewal of Motor Vehicles.
2. FOREIGN CURRENCY
At the year end foreign currency holdings are converted at the rate ruling on the balance sheet date. Transactions during the year are shown at the average rate for the period.
3. STOCKS
Publication and stationary stocks are not brought into account because they are considered to be immaterial, but are written off in the year in which the expense is incurred.

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ
(GERTRUDE BELL MEMORIAL)

WORKING FUND INVESTMENTS at 31st MARCH, 1983

	Cost £	Market Value £
£673 East Surrey Water Company 4.2% Redeemable Preference Stock, 1985/90	692	464
£500 Metropolitan Trust Co. Ltd. 3½% Debenture Stock, 1975/85	505	425
£2,920 Treasury 15% Stock, 1985	3,000	3,119
£8,013 Exchequer 14% Stock, 1984	7,996	8,268
£4,631 Exchequer 12½% Stock, 1985	4,597	4,725
£4,910 Treasury 11½% Stock, 1989	5,000	4,941
	<u>£21,790</u>	<u>£21,942</u>
	1982	<u>£21,327</u>

BONHAM CARTER LECTURE FUND INVESTMENTS at 31st MARCH, 1983

£982 Treasury 11½% Stock, 1989	1,000	988
£700 Exchequer 14% Stock, 1984	699	722
	<u>£1,699</u>	<u>£1,710</u>
	1982	<u>£1,699</u>

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS FUND INVESTMENTS at 31st MARCH, 1983

£10,000 Treasury 12% Stock, 1984	10,046	10,188
£10,200 Treasury 12½% Stock, 1985	10,098	10,404
£14,500 Exchequer 11¼% Stock, 1986	14,006	14,672
	<u>£34,150</u>	<u>£35,264</u>
	1982	<u>£33,223</u>

Recent Publications

IVORIES FROM NIMRUD

FASCICULE III—FURNITURE FROM S.W.7.
FORT SHALMANESER

Commentary, Catalogue and Plates

by Max Mallowan and Georgina Herrmann

120 pp. + 111 plates, 14 line drawings (1974). £10.50.

The Journal *IRAQ* Vol. XLIV Part 1 and 2 (1982) £15

CUNEIFORM TEXTS FROM NIMRUD

I: THE NIMRUD WINE LISTS

by J. V. Kinnier Wilson

167 pp., 54 pls. (1972). £6.00.

II: THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE ARCHIVE

by J. N. Postgate

283 pp., 98 pls. (1973). £8.00.

THE OLD BABYLONIAN TABLETS FROM TELL AL RIMAH

by Stephanie Dalley, C. B. F. Walker and J. D. Hawkins

272 pp., 112 pls. (1976). £16.00.

TRADE IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST. Papers of the XXIII rd Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Birmingham 1976 (reprinted from *Iraq* XXXIX (1977)).

231 pp. £15

FIFTY YEARS OF MESOPOTAMIAN DISCOVERY

edited by John Curtis

123 pp., 88 black-and-white illustrations, 8 colour plates (1982) £6.50