

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ

(Gertrude Bell Memorial)

31-34 GORDON SQUARE, LONDON, WC1H 0PY



Report & Accounts
for the year ended
31st May, 1978



THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD IN THE ROOMS OF THE **BRITISH ACADEMY**, BURLINGTON HOUSE, PICCADILLY, W.1, ON **WEDNESDAY, 29th NOVEMBER, 1978**, AT **5 p.m.**, TO HEAR PROFESSOR DAVID OATES, 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**.

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D. M. WILSON, M.A., D.LITT., F.S.A.

**Member of Executive Committee.*

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

During the year some changes in membership of Council occurred. Mr. G. H. Herridge offered his resignation which was regretfully accepted. The School thanks Mr. Herridge for his years of service. Professor Stuart Piggott and Sir John Richmond on their retirements were succeeded by Drs. Trevor Watkins and Richard Lawless as representatives for the Universities of Edinburgh and Durham. The School presents its thanks and good wishes to the retiring members.

Newly elected members were: Mr. J. P. Carswell, Secretary of the British Academy, to replace the late Dr. Neville Williams; Dr. D. M. Wilson, Director of the British Museum; and Miss G. C. Talbot, whose many years of service to the School made her a welcome addition.

The second Bonham Carter Memorial Lecture was given by Professor D. J. Wiseman at the British Academy on 22 June 1977. His subject "Everyday life in an ancient Assyrian capital city" was illustrated to show Nineveh, Kalah and Assur as centres of royal court, military and religious administration, with special reference to their role in the collection of tribute and tax.

In Baghdad the year was almost entirely devoted to excavation. At Abu Salabikh the months of October and November were spent in study of the excavated materials from our first two seasons, on a limited amount of rescue work made necessary by the activities of irrigation drainage contractors in the vicinity of the site, and on the surface clearance of the West Mound. This last operation gave promising results in return for a small outlay, and a report on the 1977 season will appear in *Iraq* 40 (1978), Pt. 2, which will also contain a report on the faunal remains by Dr. J. Clutton-Brock and Mr. R. Burleigh.

In 1977 the State Antiquities Organization began a major project to investigate ancient sites due to be flooded by a dam under construction on the Diyala where it passes through the Jebel Hamrin. In response to their appeal our season at Abu Salabikh was cut short to enable us to begin work at the end of November at a small 'Ubaid period site named Tell Madhhur. This was made possible by a generous response from the British Academy and by the collaboration of the Royal Ontario Museum, Dr. T. C. Young taking over the direction of excavations in February 1978 and remaining with us to the middle of April. Thanks to the fact that the Iraqi State Organization provided the wages of the workmen and met other

expenses, we were able to remain in the field until the middle of May, and work at Tell Madhhur will proceed during October to December 1978.

So far work at Tell Madhhur has revealed 4 major periods at the site: Islamic, Akkadian, Early Dynastic I, and 'Ubaid. Fortunately, from our point of view, the Islamic levels had been entirely eroded, leaving virtually only surface sherds and extensive pits. The surviving summit of the mound consists principally of the remnants of at least four phases of early 3rd millennium housing, characterized by "Scarlet Ware" pottery, and sherds from coarse jars on the rims of which cylinder seals had been rolled before the firing. The walls of the ED I period had been laid upon the shaved-down top of a tell formed by the decay of a late 'Ubaid village. Work in these levels is still only preliminary, but we have evidence for three major building levels, of which the second has walls standing 2 m high, with doors, windows and other features, and floors strewn with burnt debris including a large quantity of carbonized barley seeds. The pottery from the 'Ubaid levels is both plain, painted, and incised, and whereas the painted ware resembles sherds from Tell 'Uqair, the incised tradition has better parallels with Nuzi and even Tepe Gawra to the north. Finally on the south-west slope of the mound we were surprised to encounter a remarkable grave: over 50 pottery vessels and baskets, various bronze tools and weapons, and bones from food offerings comprised the grave goods, while the body itself was bedecked with lapis lazuli and carnelian jewellery and bronze and silver dress ornaments, together with a silver-hilted dagger and a battle-axe in bronze. Perhaps most intriguing was the discovery of two equid skeletons lying side by side, and strongly suggesting that the warrior's chariot had been buried with him. Provisionally this grave is assigned to the Akkadian period, as are the remnants of another suspected burial which included a miniature bronze axe and an entirely typical late Akkadian cylinder seal.

In 1979 it is proposed to investigate a Late Uruk site on the right bank of the Narin Chay, which was tested by us in April-May this year, and proves to be one of the few, if not the only, classic Uruk site in the region, as well as having traces of earlier 'Ubaid and Halaf occupation.

The second post-war season of excavations at Tell Brak, directed by Professor David Oates, took place from March to May 1978. Work was concentrated in three areas, two on the southern ridge east of the Agade palace and the third on the eastern slope of the mound. In the first area, CH, soundings beneath the Agade temple, discovered in 1976, and adjoining the east wall of the Agade palace

revealed a sequence of Early Dynastic and Uruk occupation, and late Ubaid levels were exposed in the course of clearing an ancient pit. Among the material recovered were a good sequence of pottery, including Ninevite V ware, and a tablet bearing the numbers 10 + 10 + 3, datable to the end of the Uruk period. Such tablets have a wide distribution in Iran, southern Mesopotamia and even western Syria, but this is the first known example from a north Mesopotamian site. In Area ER, to the east of CH, four levels of domestic occupation of the Agade and Ur III periods were partially explored, while in ST on the east slope of the mound a step trench revealed Agade and Ur III buildings at the top, with Uruk and Ninevite V levels at the base. The work promises to provide much new information about the late fourth and early third millennia in the Khabur region, and in particular to define the stratigraphic position and character of the Ninevite V occupation, a problem which had long been of particular interest to Sir Max Mallowan.

As our guest lecturers in Baghdad both Dr. Clutton-Brock (British Museum of Natural History) and Mr. Burleigh (Radio-carbon Laboratory, British Museum) addressed an audience at the Iraq Museum, giving a general introduction to the study of animals in ancient times and techniques of radio-carbon dating respectively; and Dr. Clutton-Brock also spoke at the British Council.

Besides the numerous members of the excavation teams, our premises in Mansour were able to accommodate several visitors in the course of the year. Recipients of grants from the School were: Mr. Christopher Davey, Institute of Archaeology, University of London, studying metal-working equipment from Tell adh Dhibai and preparing a plan of the Negub tunnel irrigation system; Dr. Shashi Asthana, Institute of Archaeology, University of London, visiting sites; Mr. Alastair Northedge, visiting Islamic sites as part of his doctoral research at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University; and Dr. J. F. Healey, University College, Cardiff, visiting early Christian sites and studying Syriac and other manuscripts. Other guests included Professor and Mrs. Ernest Clarke, of the University of Toronto, visiting ancient sites; and Mr. C. B. F. Walker of the British Museum, participating in Professor Hrouda's excavations at Isin.

The Director lectured on his work at Abu Salabikh (1976/77) at the Annual General Meeting on 21 February 1978. He also gave an illustrated lecture on the Hamrin work at the British Council in Baghdad, spoke at the Universities of Cambridge and Manchester and at the British School at Rome on the occasion of his visit to the United Kingdom in February-March.

Miss Jane Moon, the grant-holder of the previous year, was appointed Assistant to the Director, to act as Secretary-Accountant in Baghdad from 1 September 1977.

In conclusion we are as glad as ever to express our gratitude to the State Antiquities Organization of Iraq, and in particular to the Director General, Dr. Mu'ayyad Damerji, for their friendly assistance and co-operation. We learned with deep regret of the death of Professor Fuad Safar, for many years Director, later Inspector General, of Excavations in the Directorate of Antiquities. His long-standing interest in the work of the School, as well as his gracious advice and support, will be sadly missed.

On behalf of the Council:

D. J. WISEMAN,
Chairman.

J. D. HAWKINS,
Hon. Secretary.

J. N. POSTGATE,
Director.

D. CLARKE,
Hon. Treasurer.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS FUND

1977	£ p		1977	£ p	
£	£	p	£	£	p
EXCAVATIONS EXPENDITURE:			8,000	TRANSFER FROM WORKING FUND	
Abu Salabikh	9,301.62			DONATIONS AND GRANTS FOR	13,000.00
Brak	11,906.70			EXCAVATIONS:	
Gebel Hamrin	5,644.42			British Museum—Brak	3,000.00
Sundries (including cost of guards)	2,546.30			Sundry—Brak	130.11
18,303			29,399.04	British Academy—Abu Salabikh	2,500.00
PRINTING:				British Museum—Abu Salabikh	2,000.00
— “Trade in Ancient Near East”		1,528.00		Sundry—Abu Salabikh	200.00
3,864			—	British Academy—Gebel Hamrin	3,000.00
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER				Cambridge University—Gebel Hamrin	750.00
EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR				Sundry—Gebel Hamrin	372.73
			11,407	SALES AND ROYALTIES	11,952.84
			2,760	EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER	2,446.23
				INCOME FOR THE YEAR	3,527.97
<u>£22,167</u>			<u>£30,927.04</u>		<u>£30,927.04</u>

FUNDS STATEMENT

1977	1978		1977		1978
£	£	£	£	£	£
INCREASE IN FUNDS:				REPRESENTED BY:—	
— Endowment Fund	—		3,079	Increase (Decrease) in Investments	(236)
5,122 Working Fund	3,994		(1,620)	Increase (Decrease) in Debtors	1,610
999 Motor Vehicles Renewal Reserve	272		(1,604)	(Increase) in Creditors	(3,220)
(500) “Seven Pillars of Wisdom” Fund	—			Movement in Liquid Funds:—	
120 Bonham Carter Lecture Fund	20		9,995	Increase in Bank Balances	3,021
3,864 Special Publications and Excavations Fund	(3,527)		(245)	(Decrease) in Cash Balances	(416)
<u>£9,605</u>	<u>£759</u>		<u>£9,605</u>		2,605
					<u>£759</u>

Recent Publications

- IVORIES FROM NIMRUD
- FASCICULE III—FURNITURE FROM SW.7
- FORT SHALMANESER
- Commentary, Catalogue and Plates
- by Max Mallowan and Georgina Hermann
- 120 pp. + 111 plates, 14 line drawings (1974). £10.50.
- The Journal IRAQ Vol. XXXVI (1974) £9. In honour of
- Sir Max Mallowan
- The Journal IRAQ Vol. XXXIX Parts 1 and 2 (1977) £9.
- CUNEIFORM TEXTS FROM NIMRUD
- I: THE NIMRUD WINE LISTS
- by J. V. Kinnler Wilson
- 167 pp., 54 pls. (1972). £5.00.
- 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 (\$35.00).
- TRADE IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST. Papers of the XXIII rd.
- Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Birmingham 1976 (reprinted
- from *Iraq* XXXIX (1977)).
- 231 pp. £10 (\$20.00)