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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, 1959

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THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD IN THE ROOMS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, 1 KENSINGTON GORE, ON WEDNESDAY, 18th NOVEMBER, 1959, at 5 p.m., TO HEAR PROFESSOR MALLOWAN AND MR. 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.

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

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*Member of Executive Committee

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

WE record with regret the death of Sir Kinahan Cornwallis, G.C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., who had been a member, and a valued adviser, of Council for twenty-five years.

This year, whilst the new Government of Iraq was reorganising the labour and land laws, it was deemed expedient to suspend excavations at Nimrud. The School however continued to function in Baghdad as usual and we took good advantage of this respite to catch up with the heavy arrears of publication concerning the School's Expeditions. We had done likewise in 1954 and it is becoming increasingly obvious that a break in excavation is from time to time desirable, especially when finds are as prolific as they have been at Nimrud.

Those who were in residence this year at the School in Baghdad included the following: The Director and Mrs. Mallowan; Miss Barbara Parker, Secretary-Librarian; Mr. David Stronach, Fellow of the School; and Professor J. Laessøe.

It was gratifying to see that progress had been made in the laboratories of the Iraq Antiquities Department on the delicate and skilled task of cleaning the last consignment of Nimrud ivories under the supervision of Sayid Akram Shukri and his assistant Sayid Ali Nakshabandi. Similarly, at the Institute of Archaeology in London, a year of concentrated work had been done on the duplicates allocated to the Expedition. These tasks have already been most rewarding and are still far from completion.

In Baghdad we were much indebted to Sayid Antran for the help given to us by him in the Department's photographic studio. There we took many photographs, especially in colour, of the reconstituted ivories and other objects, particularly with a view to the illustration of a book entitled *Nimrud and its Remains* which is shortly expected to go to press. Photographs of some of the ivories discovered in 1958 appeared in colour in *The Illustrated London News* of 17th January, 1959, an issue in which three pages of colour were allocated.

Good progress was also made in Baghdad by Miss Parker and Professor Laessøe on the epigraphical work, while Mr. Stronach was especially concerned with the publication of metal objects. The results of these labours will appear not only in our larger publications but also in the current issues of the journal *Iraq*.

Much time was also devoted this year to the tasks of revising certain publications and reprinting issues of the journal that were about to become extinct; in particular Vols. XIII-XVII are being reprinted and this means that from Vol. VIII onwards a complete run of the journal is still available. The School bears in mind the desirability of reprinting certain earlier pre-war issues, especially

now that the circulation of the journal is increasing, but this expensive task may have to be postponed for a time.

A revised edition of *Twenty-five Years of Mesopotamian Discovery* was also brought out, the first edition now being out of print. Some delay in the production of this year's journal was made inevitable owing to the printers' strike, but none the less it is hoped that the two parts will in fact be available not much later than the usual publication date. Vol. XXI Part 2 will be largely devoted to discoveries made at Nimrud, and in addition will contain a full account of the excavations directed by Mr. David Oates at Ain Sinu.

Selected duplicate material discovered at Nimrud was in the course of this year despatched to the following institutions which have generously supported the School's excavation and publication fund: The British Museum; the Metropolitan Museum of New York; the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto; Cambridge University; the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; the National Museum, Copenhagen; the Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery; the Musée Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire of Brussels; the University of Sydney.

Finally, our warmest thanks are again due to the officials of the Iraq Antiquities Department for their continued co-operation and kindness, especially to Sayid Taha Baqir, the new Director-General; Sayid Fuad Safar, Inspector-General of Excavations; and to Sayid Faraj Basmachi, Curator of Antiquities, in addition to the other officials mentioned above.

On behalf of the Council,

J. M. TROUTBECK,
Chairman.

KEVIN O'C. HAYES,
Hon. Secretary.

M. E. L. MALLOWAN,
Director.

July, 1959.

