

## EDITORIAL

THE Journal *Iraq* now reaches the twenty-fifth volume and celebrates its Jubilee. We are therefore publishing one full plate in colour and are devoting the whole of this issue to the results of the excavations at Nimrud, where the School has made major contributions to the archaeology, history and literature of ancient Assyria.

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We wish to take this opportunity of sending our best wishes to Professor Emeritus Sidney Smith, the Journal's first editor, who initiated the series in 1934. It was his vision and enterprise that induced the School to launch an annual publication, which is taken by libraries concerned with Mesopotamian archaeology in many parts of the world.

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Next we wish to recall the services rendered to the School by the Journal's second editor, the late Dr. R. Campbell Thompson, who excavated at Nineveh and made many additions to the great Kuyunjik collection of tablets, the bulk of which is housed in the British Museum. He edited the Journal from 1936 until his death in 1940.

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The third editor of *Iraq* was Professor Emeritus C. J. Gadd, from 1941 to 1948. During the War only two supplementary volumes appeared, so that it has taken twenty-nine years to reach our Jubilee Volume. We are glad to announce that Professor Gadd will be publishing an article concerning Ur in the Autumn number of this Journal. From 1949 onwards the editorship has been in the hands of Professor Emeritus M. E. L. Mallowan and, since 1953, jointly with Professor D. J. Wiseman.

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The Twenty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq took place on 7th November, 1962, in the rooms of the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore. Our President, the Rt. Hon. Lord Salter, P.C., was in the Chair.

At this meeting Mr. David Oates, Joint Director of the School gave a memorable lecture on the twelfth expedition to Nimrud, and described what may prove to have been the last of the operations conducted on a grand scale at Fort Shalmaneser. It is hoped that during the coming year he will be able to begin writing the final account of the architecture of this monumental building. The plan is now virtually complete and represents the most powerful military establishment ever to have been excavated in Western Asia. In addition to another large collection of ivories, Mr. Oates showed illustrations of the great throne-base of Shalmaneser III which has now been moved to the new museum in Baghdad.

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In December 1962, Professor Mallowan, Vice-Chairman of the School, accompanied by his wife, revisited Nimrud in order to re-examine the ground and to obtain detailed information for the completion of his book, *Nimrud and its Remains*. At Nimrud it is now time to concentrate on a number of technical problems capable of solution with fewer men, under close supervision, for rising costs make it impossible to finance the operation of a large labour force.

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During the coming season, our thirteenth at Nimrud, Mr. Jeffery Orchard will be in charge of a smaller expedition for which we have several objectives in view. First we have to complete the clearance of a large apartment which is still filled with hundreds of fragmentary ivories. Next, we have to examine certain portions of the external walls; to ascertain if possible, the relation of the fortress walls to the canal system; to test some formidable mud brick structures at the south-west end of the fort; and to examine the location of a gate in the eastern wall of the city, beyond the fort.

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This year the services of two assistant technicians, trained in the laboratories of the Institute of Archeology, the University of London, have been secured for the purpose of cleaning, repairing and reconstituting the fragments of ivory recently recovered from Fort Shalmaneser. This work has been put into the hands of Miss Ann Searight, and Miss Nan Shaw, to each of whom a Fellowship has been awarded; they will be assisting Mr. Orchard on the forthcoming dig.

We are glad to welcome once more Mr. Nicholas Kindersley, who is also a Fellow, and will be on the staff at Nimrud where he has previously rendered valuable services, notably in recording the pottery and in photographing the ivories.

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Mr. Julian Reade, from Cambridge University, will again serve on the expedition. Last year he was most successful in helping to reconstitute the great glazed brick tableau of Shalmaneser III, a restored drawing of which Mr. David Oates showed at his lecture.

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Mr. Trevor Donald, Lecturer in Akkadian at the University of Manchester, has also been awarded a Fellowship to enable him to assist as epigraphist both at Nimrud and in Baghdad where the work of preparing for publication of texts found in earlier seasons at Nimrud continues.

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Professor D. J. Wiseman, who also plans to revisit Nimrud, will be continuing the study in Baghdad of an important group of tablets found in the Nabu Temple at Nimrud in 1955–1957. The School plans to publish the transcriptions of these texts in a special volume.