



Dish made by the Royal Worcester Porcelain Company in 1960 to commemorate Leonard Woolley's work at Ur. The designs, in gold, red and blue are raised, and are facsimile representations of treasures from the Royal Cemetery of Ur.

## EDITORIAL

THE death of Sir Leonard Woolley on Saturday, February 20th, 1960 brought to a close the life of a man whose services to archaeology will never be forgotten. We recall with pride that he was a member of our Council and that he had been closely connected with the School ever since its foundation in 1932, by which time he had already completed a decade of work at Ur of the Chaldees.

Woolley would have attained his eightieth birthday on 17th April of this year, an occasion which was to have been appropriately celebrated by his colleagues and friends. Towards the end of last year we had therefore asked the Worcester Royal Porcelain Company if they would execute a commission for a dish suitably inscribed, and decorated with designs reminiscent of his work at Ur. This they agreed to do, and after some deliberation we chose as centre-piece the glorious gold dagger and sheath, one of the earliest discoveries in the Royal Cemetery at Ur, with a surround of golden willow leaves and the wreaths of golden beech or poplar which had adorned the tombs of Queen Shubad and her royal attendants. The designs also reproduce the lapis lazuli and carnelian beads with which the leaves had been strung and, by a happy coincidence, combine on a single dish the gold, red and blue for which Worcester bone china is justly famous. The decoration is slightly raised upon the white background, and the colour tones faithfully reproduce the variations in the original. That this is a masterpiece of craftsmanship none will deny, and we believe it to be one which would have delighted Woolley himself. Would that we had been able to give it to him on the day for which it had been intended! Instead, it has become a tribute to his memory, as the inscription on the back records. Nothing could be more appropriate than the cuneiform legend which goes with it: 'giver of life to the city of Ur'—a claim first made by Hammurabi of Babylon for Erech in the prologue to his Code of Laws.

This dish which is illustrated on the accompanying Plate I is at present held for the School at the Institute of Archaeology in London, and it remains to decide what its eventual destination shall be. It will be for the Council to make a resolution on this matter, and no doubt the principal considerations are, that it shall go to some centre with which Woolley was personally associated and that it shall be housed in some building within which it can be publicly exhibited. Two centres have a strong claim: London, and in particular, the British Museum where the larger part of one gallery contains many of the Ur treasures; Oxford, because in his youth he was an undergraduate, and in his old age an Honorary Fellow of New College, and in particular the Ashmolean

Museum, where he held his first professional post as assistant to Sir Arthur Evans, and to which he also gave much material from Ur. It may be that many will favour this last suggestion, bearing in mind the possibility that this memorial may attract young men from his own University to follow in his footsteps, and that housed among these smaller collections from Ur the dish will the more easily attract individual attention.

After Woolley's death an appeal was sent to many persons and institutions for subscriptions to a Memorial Fund for the purpose of helping young archaeologists to undertake work in Iraq and elsewhere in Western Asia. At the same time we asked subscribers if they wished to be associated with the payment for the dish, and the response, considering the stringency of these times, has been encouraging. Up to the time of writing the sum of approximately £1,000 has been raised, and it is hoped that this will be increased as the appeal becomes more widely known. Here we wish on behalf of the School to record our warm thanks for the generosity of all who have sent gifts: the names of subscribers up to 31st August 1960 will be found at the end of this volume.

The second form of tribute to Woolley is this volume itself, the contents of which are wholly devoted to his discoveries at Ur. We wish it had been possible to invite more scholars to contribute articles, but, as always, economic considerations had to be borne in mind since *Iraq*, like most learned journals, is published well below cost price, and requires a substantial subvention from the School's funds for its publication. The editors have therefore regretfully been obliged to confine their invitations for articles to scholars whose work has been particularly connected with Ur. Even so, there are many who we know would have written readily for this occasion; we hope that they will understand our predicament and that in due course they will send us articles spontaneously if they feel moved to do so.

The range of Woolley's work at Ur alone has so wide a bearing that it invites expert discussion on innumerable topics from the neolithic down to the Hellenistic period. It is hoped that the articles in this Memorial Volume provide a cross section of the great fields of knowledge into which he led us, and that in subsequent issues of *Iraq* further contributions bearing on the work at Ur will appear from time to time as new discoveries relating to Ur come to be made. We are indeed deeply grateful for all that we have been able to receive, and believe that what is written between these covers is in itself a rich testimonial to the character of the master's work at Ur, where he bequeathed to us the bounteous legacy of Sumerian civilisation.