

## EDITORIAL

The School has long been associated with the work of Dr. Hans Helbaek, formerly of the National Museum, Copenhagen, the eminent Danish palaeobotanist whose wife Diana was also, for some years, the Director of the School in Baghdad. His contributions to our Journal on the ecology of ancient Iraq and to the study of the plant remains of Nimrud and elsewhere, ensured that this aspect of scientific studies played their due rôle in our researches. We are sorry to have to record his death on 10th February, 1981.

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At the Annual General Meeting which was held on Tuesday, 2nd December, 1980, the Vice-Chairman, Professor David Oates, gave the lecture, entitled "The Excavations at Tell Brak, 1980."

The excavations, the third post-war season, were conducted from March to May, in the areas CH and ER. The Akkadian and Early Dynastic levels were further investigated, and eight seal impressions were found, ranging from Early Dynastic to c. 2000 B.C. An interesting pottery sequence, covering the same period, was obtained, with examples of Scarlet Ware and Ninevite V pottery. The area ER seems to consist of private houses, and CH perhaps public buildings.

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Mr. John Springford, O.B.E., resigned from the post of Honorary Treasurer after one year in office. Mr. G. J. Warren, General Manager of the Ottoman Bank (associated with Grindlay's Bank), was elected to take his place. Mr. Springford was elected to serve on the Council.

In addition to Mr. Springford, Mr. A. R. Millard, Miss M. J. Munn-Rankin and Dr. J. E. Curtis were elected to serve on the Council. Among the nominated members, Miss L. H. Jeffery was succeeded by Miss E. Mackenzie (Lady Margaret Hall) and Mr. P. Hulin by Professor J. Barr (Board of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford).

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In Iraq, despite some difficulties due to the war, valuable work continued to be done. At Tell Taya, following the 1967-1973 excavations by Dr. J. E. Reade (*Iraq* XXX (1968), 234 ff.; XXXIII (1971), 87 ff.; XXXV (1973), 155 ff.), Mr. G. Farrant, who had been architect in the 1973 season, spent four months, March-June, continuing the survey of the remarkable stone walls visible on the surface without excavation. He surveyed an additional c. 170 hectares, bringing the total surveyed to c. 232 hectares (573 acres), and the plan of surface remains at Tell Taya is now complete, offering a unique picture of a third-millennium town. It is hoped to publish the results as a special publication of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq in 1981-82.

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In preparation for excavations on the island of 'Ana in the Euphrates, which will be flooded by the forthcoming construction of the Haditha dam, the Director and Assistant Director of the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq spent some time planning the mosque on the island, excavated by the Iraqis. Five major building levels with numerous sub-phases were identified. A spring season of excavation is currently being conducted by Mr. Postgate at Abu Salabikh. Dr. Roaf hopes to work, in collaboration with Mr. A. Northedge, at 'Ana in the Haditha dam area in the autumn.

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Mr. R. Killick was appointed Secretary-Librarian to the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq and arrived in Baghdad in November, 1980, to take up his appointment, along with his wife, Jane Moon, a former holder of the post. Jane Moon will be working on the pottery from the Tell Taya—Tell el Rimah survey, from Abu Salabikh and from the Hamrin.

Visitors included: Miss Deborah Downs, to complete her study on the human skeletal remains from Abu Salabikh, to be published in Mr. Postgate's report on the graves, and from Tells Madhhur and Rubeideh, to be published in the Hamrin report of the Iraqi State Antiquities Organization; Mr. Anthony Green (grant-holder), to work on apotropaic foundation figurines; Mr. Charles Burney (University of Manchester), to investigate the possibility of a Manchester University expedition to participate in an archaeological salvage project.

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The attention of our readers is drawn to the leaflet on the last page of this volume offering for sale sets of colour transparency slides illustrating excavations at Abu Salabikh. It is intended to follow up this offer with further sets illustrating the Jebel Hamrin rescue project, and former School excavations, including Umm Dabaghiyah, Tell el Rimah, Tell Taya and Nimrud. The purpose of this offer is to make generally available pictures of sites and objects excavated by the School, and it is hoped that sufficient interest will be shown to ensure that the project will continue on a regular basis.