

## EDITORIAL

The British School of Archaeology in Iraq records with great sadness the death of our President, Lady Mallowan, on 21 November 1993. An obituary by Professor David Oates follows this Editorial.

We regret to record the death on 29 March 1993 of Mr. Peter Hulin, who represented the Board of Oriental Studies, Oxford University, on the Council from 1966–1968 and 1975–1980.

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Unfortunately moves towards a resumption of archaeological work in Iraq by members of the School, reported for 1992, have been stalled by the deterioration of relations between the Iraqi and Western Governments in 1993. The Council has now agreed, on the advice of the British Academy, that no visits to Iraq can be made by the School staff until there is a marked improvement in the situation.

It has however been possible to remain in communication with Dr. Mu'ayyad Sa'id Damerji, the Director General of the Department of Antiquities and Heritage. He has made available to the officers of the School a list of the missing antiquities looted from Iraq's regional museums after the Gulf War in 1991. With a view to assisting in the recovery of listed pieces, the School has produced for circulation to appropriate bodies and individuals an illustrated catalogue entitled *Lost Heritage*, fascicle 2 (following the publication of the first fascicle in Chicago in 1992). Its publication and availability is announced on the back cover of the present volume.

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Though prevented from working in Iraq, the School's Director Dr. Roger Matthews has been actively engaged in Mesopotamian matters. His *Cities, Seals and Writing* was published in the spring, 1993. He assisted in the production of *Lost Heritage*, and contributed a study of the clay sealings from Abu Salabikh to volume 4 of *Abu Salabikh Excavations* also published in 1993. He acted as site supervisor on the Tell Brak excavations in 1993, and it has been agreed that he should take over as Field Director of the excavations in 1994. He is also serving as Field Director of the excavations at Catal Höyük, Turkey, resumed under the general direction of Dr. Ian Hodder in the autumn of 1993.

The Assistant Director, Mr. Tony Wilkinson, has had a post at the Oriental Institute, Chicago, from the beginning of 1992, but retains his title of Assistant Director on secondment.

The Secretary Librarian, Miss Helen McDonald, has also been working at Tell Brak in 1993. Otherwise she has been working on Nimrud pottery, and has set up a database of all Nimrud objects except ivories.

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Following our original charter permitting us to work in areas outside Iraq relevant to Mesopotamian archaeology, the School has continued to support Professor David Oates's excavations at Tell Brak and the London-Bahrain Archaeological Expeditions's excavations at Saar. Professor Oates conducted his 14th season of excavations from March–May 1993. A report on the 13th and 14th seasons is included in the present volume, pp. 155–199. Recent finds now make it likely that Tell Brak is to be identified as the ancient city of Nagar or Nawar.

At Saar the 4th season of excavations was conducted from December 1992–March 1993. A further 500m of town were exposed, and remains of an earlier temple below the existing building were discovered.

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Following Council's decision to offer grants in 1992–93 to assist research on primary material outside Iraq (as a temporary measure until work within Iraq may be resumed), the following awards were made: Dr Georgina Herrmann, to study ivories of Nimrud type found in the Idean Cave, Crete; Dr. John MacGinnis, to study unpublished letters in the Sippar collection in the British Museum; Dr. Donald

Matthews, to visit Syrian museums in connection with his catalogue of Brak seals. In addition, grants were made to Ms. Amanda Brady, to assist Dr. Herrmann with the preparation for publication of the Acropolis ivories from Nimrud; to Mr. Postgate and Dr. Stuart Campbell, to visit Aarhus to bring to the UK the Umm Dabaghiyah archive with a view to producing a final report; and to Mr. Muzahem Mahmud, to enable him to lecture on his discovery of the royal tombs at Nimrud and to attend the conference on the furniture of Western Asia in London in Summer 1993.

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The Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, 2 December 1992, at which Professor David Oates lectured on "Recent Excavations at Tell Brak".

The eleventh Bonham-Carter Memorial lecture was given on Wednesday 9 June 1993 by Dr. Stephanie Dalley on "The Hanging Gardens of Old Babylon".