

EDITORIAL

This year *Iraq* has achieved its 50th volume. Apart from a five-year gap, 1940–45, between volumes 7 and 8, the journal has appeared regularly every year since 1934, for most of that time until 1985—in two parts, Spring and Autumn. The School itself is older than its journal and celebrated its Jubilee in 1982. Looking back along the accumulated volumes to those of the pre-war years, one is struck by the presence among the then contributors of so many distinguished names: in volume 1, Frankfort, Gadd, Campbell Thompson, Creswell and Woolley, shortly to be joined in subsequent volumes by Mallowan, Barnett, Aurel Stein and Seton Lloyd, also Driver and Miles. We hope, that the names of today's contributors will look as memorable to the editors and readers of *Iraq* volume 100 (2038).

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In 1988, along with the journal's 50th volume, we have celebrated two notable birthdays; in July the 80th birthday of our President, Lady Mallowan; and in October, the 70th birthday of our Chairman, Professor D. J. Wiseman. We salute them both. An appreciation of their long connections with and services to the School appears on the following page.

We dedicate this volume of *Iraq* to them in honour of their services and achievements. We note with pleasure that the contributors include many of their friends and former students, as well as younger scholars now entering the fields to which they have contributed so much.

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With regret the School has had to accept the decision of Professor Wiseman to stand down from the post of Chairman, which he has occupied for a demanding eighteen years. We thank him heartily for his tireless efforts on our behalf. The Chairmanship will be filled by Professor David Oates, a long-time colleague in the field both of his predecessor and of Lady Mallowan.

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In the School in Baghdad, Dr. Jeremy Black resigned as Director of the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq at the end of 1987, to take up his post as Lecturer in Akkadian at Oxford. During his five and a half years in Iraq, as Assistant Director and, from 1986, as Director, he has combined his part in running the School with active involvement in epigraphic research.

Mr. Warwick Ball, who has served the School as Field Director since April 1985 and as Assistant Director since 1986, will also be leaving us at the end of 1988. During this time he has spent much of each year in the field, first in the Eski Mosul excavations, and then at the large site of Tell Hawa in the North Jezirah Project. A report on his work on the latter will appear in *Iraq* 51 (1989).

In succession to Dr. Black, Mr. Roger Matthews was appointed Director of the British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq from March 1988. He had previously held the post of Secretary/Librarian for two years, during which time he had participated in the Abu Salabikh excavations, and prepared his PhD thesis. As our new Director he has begun in October 1988 a new series of excavations at Jemdet Nasr.

The new Secretary/Librarian, Dr. Graham Philip, was appointed from October 1988. His PhD thesis, metalwork of the Late Bronze Age, has been recently accepted

by Edinburgh University. The School's Fellow for the year was Mr. Tony Wilkinson, who has been conducting surveys for the North Jezirah Project and for the Abu Salabikh excavations.

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Besides the School's main archaeological commitment to the North Jezirah Project, the sponsored excavations of Mr. J. N. Postgate at Abu Salabikh, and those of Professor David Oates at Tell Brak had successful seasons in 1988. Mr. Postgate excavated two large E.D.III houses, in which were two largely undisturbed burials and four cuneiform tablets. He also continued surface clearance and sectioned the city-wall. Professor Oates uncovered a large Akkadian building, which incorporated a small temple.

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As visiting Scholars Professor David Oates and Dr. Joan Oates went to Iraq in December 1987 to review current work on prehistoric archaeology and to inspect the School's work on the North Jezirah Project. A further visiting Scholar, Dr. Erica Hunter, studied Syriac magical bowls in the Iraq Museum.

In recognition of his important work on the Samarra survey, the School has conferred on Dr. Alastair Northedge the title of Special Research Fellow for 1988/89. This year Dr. Northedge has published the final report on the School's excavations conducted by himself and Dr. Michael Roaf at 'Ana on the Euphrates. This has appeared under the title A. Northedge, A. Bamber and M. Roaf, *Excavations at 'Ana, Qal'a Island* (Aris and Phillips, Warminster).

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In Baghdad, the British Archaeological Expedition has moved premises in order to obtain more adequate accommodation. The new house is in the Mansour district, not far from the previous building. The new address is given inside the back cover of the journal.

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At the 1987 Annual General Meeting on 25 November, Dr. Jeremy Black gave the lecture entitled "The Slain Heroes: some monsters of Mesopotamia." The Summer Lecture was given on 8 June 1988 by Mr. Warwick Ball on the subject, "Two seasons of the Tell Hawa Project."

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For 1989 it has unfortunately become necessary to raise the School's membership subscription from £15 to £20 p.a. This of course relates to the cost of producing the journal, and in the six years during which the subscription has stood at £15, printing costs have risen by well over 5% each year, so the rise, though regrettable, is in line with today's prices.

An index of *Iraq* volumes 31–50 is in preparation, following on the first such index covering volumes 1–30. This index will be distributed free to subscribers for 1989 along with the journal of next year.

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Dr. Jeremy Black has joined the Council as nominated member for Oxford University. Oxford's previous nominated member, Dr. Stephanie Dalley, has been coopted to membership of the Council, as have also Dr. Michael Rogers and Dr. Ralph Pinder Wilson.