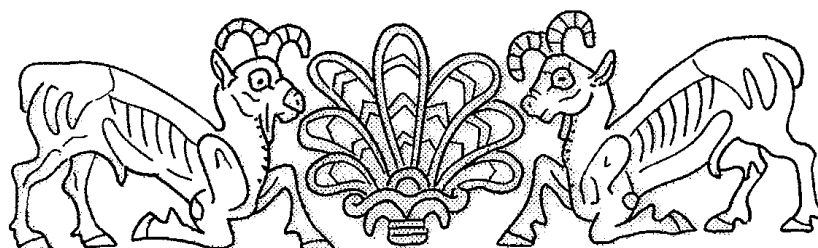


**BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY
IN IRAQ**

NEWSLETTER NO. 11

May 2003



(GERTRUDE BELL MEMORIAL)

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 219948

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The next BSAI Newsletter will be published in November 2003 and brief contributions are welcomed on recent research, publications and events. All contributions should be sent to the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH, United Kingdom or via e-mail to: bsai@britac.ac.uk or fax 44+(0)20 7969 5401 to arrive by October 15, 2003.

Joan Porter MacIver edits the BSAI Newsletter.

BSAI INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH GRANTS

The School considers applications for individual research and travel grants twice a year, in spring and autumn, and all applications must be received by 15th April or 15th October in any given year. Grants are available to support research into the archaeology, history or languages of Iraq and neighbouring countries, and the Gulf, from the earliest times. Awards will normally fall within a limit of £1,000, though more substantial awards may be made in exceptional cases. Grantees will be required to provide a written report of their work, and abstracts from grantee's reports will be published in future issues of the BSAI Newsletter (published May & November). Grantees must provide a statement of accounts with supporting documents/receipts, as soon as possible and in any case within six months of the work for which the grant was awarded being completed. Applicants must be residents of the UK or Commonwealth citizens and will be informed of the decision of Council concerning their grant application by early July and early January respectively.

Application forms are available from the Secretary or on the BSAI Web-site: **<http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq/>**
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Front Cover:

Detail from an Assyrian Style Ivory, Nimrud drawn by Tessa Rickards

The last few months have been a terrifying time for anyone with relatives and friends in Iraq. We can only express our deepest sympathy to them and hope that the worst of the violence is now over and that the enormous task of rebuilding the country can begin.

In addition to the human cost of the war, there has also been an appalling price to pay in terms of Iraq's heritage, its monuments, its sites and above all, its museums. The School was approached early in the New Year by the American military and asked for information on sites and monuments which might be at risk in the event of war. We were also asked what precautions the military should take to avoid 'collateral damage'. In response to these requests an excellent website was set up by Professor Postgate and Dr Robson (<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~wolf0126>) answering these queries and listing much additional relevant information. We also advised that all museums and sites must be guarded, and warned of the very real danger of looting.

Sadly, all this advice was ignored with the appalling results which we have all seen in the press at the National Library, the University library the library of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, and Iraq Museum in Baghdad. The situation is still far from clear, but it seems that some priceless pieces from the Iraq Museum such as the Uruk vase, the so-called Bassetki statue, and a number of Nimrud ivories were stolen 'to order' while other pieces were taken on an opportunistic basis. Much of the damage seems to have been caused by senseless vandalism. It will be some time before the full extent of the losses can be assessed as the Museum has lost all its equipment from cars and computers to chairs and laboratory equipment and some of the records have also been destroyed.

Your School also made efforts to contact the Ministry of Defence in London about preventing damage to the heritage, but was sadly unable to do so, although representations were made through the Foreign Office, questions were asked in both Houses of Parliament, a letter was sent to the Prime Minister at the request of the School from the All Parliamentary group on Archaeology, and letters were written to the newspapers. Many members of Council have given interviews on radio and television and worked tirelessly to make the dangers known.

Now, however, our thoughts are turning to how we can best assist our Iraqi colleagues to establish the true scale of the loss and to repair some of the damage. The Museum staff has put together a list of its most urgent requirements and these include all the items mentioned above, repairs to the building, the repair of the air-conditioning and many other essential things such as cameras and chemicals. The first priority must be to provide these and to assist the staff of the museum in compiling a reliable list of all the objects stolen, which it is feared will run into thousands. As soon as it is safe to do so, the British Museum, which has been asked by the Baghdad Museum to coordinate offers of assistance, will be sending a team of three people to make a more detailed survey of

the situation. The School is delighted that Helen MacDonald, a very experienced archaeologist who worked for a number of years in Iraq and who was assistant director of the School, has agreed to go as our representative.

Once the basic facilities are in place there will be a crying need for skilled conservators to assist on mending those of the smashed items which can be reconstructed. This will cost very large sums of money. The School is putting aside as much as it can from its rapidly dwindling reserves to pay Helen MacDonald and to help with the provision of chemicals and other equipment. The School has applied to the British Academy and we have also just received £10,000 from a charitable trust for this purpose. We hope that members of the School will consider making a donation for this purpose to the School as a way of showing their support for the Iraqi people, and especially for our Iraqi colleagues. Your gifts will be spent after consulting the staff of the Iraq Museum and in consultation with the British Museum.

International efforts headed by UNESCO are being made to prevent the stolen material being smuggled out of the country and sold on the art markets of Western Europe and America. Interpol is also involved. It is hoped that as material is identified it will be confiscated and restored to the people of Iraq. Indeed, we understand that some small pieces have already been returned by people living near the museum who took items into their homes for safe-keeping. A number of crates of antiquities and paintings have also been impounded by the Jordanian customs.

We still know very little about the situation outside Baghdad although we hear that the Mosul museum has also been emptied. It will not be possible to carry out a survey of sites and standing monuments for some time. However, on a more positive note, the building of the Makhoul dam, which would have flooded both Assur itself and many other important sites, has stopped because of the war and it is hoped that UNESCO may become involved in a study to redesign the dam in order to minimise damage to the sites.

Finally, we turn to more domestic matters and must mention the important changes which took place on Council at the AGM in December. We were very sorry to lose Dr Collon, Sir Stephen Egerton KCMG and Professor Postgate, all of whom have made outstanding contributions to the work of the School over the years. We are pleased that Sir Stephen stays with us in his role of Vice President and as a co-opted member of our Development Committee and that Dr Collon has agreed to continue her valuable work as co-editor of the journal *Iraq* and chair of our publications sub-committee. Dr Clayden also decided to stand down as his work keeps him out of England at the moment. This meant that four vacancies were created and we are very fortunate in being able to welcome back Dr Curtis from the British Museum, Dr Herrmann, well known for her work on the Nimrud ivories, and Dr Black who is a former

director of the School in Baghdad and who has been in charge of our lecture programme for a number of years. It is also a pleasure to welcome Sir Terence Clark, formerly British Ambassador to Iraq who joins the Council for the first time. We look forward to working with such a strong team.

Harriet Crawford

GERTRUDE BELL MEDAL

The Gertrude Bell Medal of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq was awarded to **Dr R S Moorey FBA**, former Keeper of Antiquities, Ashmolean Museum, and Vicegerent of Wolfson College, Oxford for his outstanding services to Mesopotamian Archaeology. The presentation was made at the British Academy on Thursday, March 13th by Professor David Oates. This medal has only been awarded three previous times to, Professor Sir Max Mallowan (1976); Professor Seton Lloyd (1979) and Professor David Oates (1997).

REPORTS OF BSAI PROJECTS & INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS

The Nimrud Ivory Project

In 1997 Christoph Uehlinger organized an enjoyable and stimulating international symposium, 'Images as media, sources for the cultural history of the Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean (1st millennium BCE)' at Fribourg, which was published in 2000. This inspired not only an ongoing series of seminars dedicated to 1st millennium ivories (Fribourg 2001, Pisa 2004 and Mainz 200?), but also a series of research projects, at Fribourg itself (studying the Samaria ivories, Claudia Suter), at Mainz (led by Professor Eva Braun-Holzinger on Egyptianizing ivories) and at the University of Pisa (directed by S. Mazzoni). This in turn makes the continuation of the ongoing series of publications of the ivories by the B.S.A.I. a priority. While five volumes have already appeared, *Ivories from Nimrud I-V*, still outstanding are those found in Rooms SW11/12 and T10 in Fort Shalmaneser and from the North West and Burnt Palaces, the Nabu Temple and the Town Wall houses on the Acropolis.

Work on the SW11/12 ivories was already in hand in the late '80s but was delayed after 1991, awaiting a favourable opportunity to return to Baghdad for further study. In the mean time work has begun on ivories found in the North West Palace: this was inspired by the generosity of Dr. Muayyad Said Damerji, who gave the School permission to republish the outstanding ivories found by the Iraq Department of Antiquities in Well AJ. These were speedily published by the Iraqis themselves in their

Ivories from Nimrud by Safar and al Iraqi (1987 – in Arabic), but, although the photographs themselves are of excellent quality, the printing is poor.

The first ivories were, of course, found in the 1840s in the North West Palace by that great pioneer, Austen Henry Layard, and published by Richard Barnett in his *Catalogue of Nimrud Ivories* (1957). A century after Layard, Max Mallowan found superb ivories, some of which were illustrated in his *Nimrud & Its Remains I* (1966), in M.E.L. Mallowan and L.G. Davies, *Ivories from Nimrud II, Ivories in Assyrian Style* (1970), and in J.J. Orchard, *Ivories from Nimrud I, Equestrian Bridle Harness* (1967).

It was only a decade after the B.S.A.I. ceased work at Nimrud that the Iraqis recovered the finest ivories ever found at Nimrud in Well AJ, while in 1992 a collection of bone and ivory tubes were found in Well 4, by Muzahim Mahmoud. Thanks to the generosity of the Iraq Department of Antiquities and the British Museum, the next catalogue in the *Ivories from Nimrud* series will, it is hoped, publish all these ivories, arranged by context. They are an outstanding collection.

Two other aspects of the ivory programme have been made possible by advances in computer technology, a scanning programme, undertaken by H. Coffey and S. Laidlaw, and creating a database of the ivories (J. Picton). The scanning programme began with recording the photographs of the North West Palace ivories but has been expanded to include first those from Room SW11/12, and then to the ivories published in the last three volumes of *Ivories from Nimrud* (III-V): these are scanned from the original photographs rather than the published images. Altogether, this will make available a huge archive of images for the next generation of ivory studies. The scanned images will be made available on CD or DVD, whichever is the best current storage system, as well as with a ‘handbook’ of ‘thumb-nail’-sized images for ease of reference. Even prior to completion the value of such images is evident, for they are being made available to the database of material lost from the Iraq Museum.

From an ivory viewpoint the years ahead should be exciting, with new scholars and research teams from different countries and with different perspectives engaged in the quest. There are numerous approaches to be made to the material, including iconography, function, distribution, and the place of the ivory craft within the artistic world of the first millennium.

Georgina Herrmann

The Emar version of lu₂ = sha *

The Emar version of the lexical list known as lu₂ = sha can now be reconstructed in large part and with confidence. Improvements on a number of levels can be made to the first edition published almost 20 years ago (by Arnaud, *Emar* VI/4 no. 602). On the sign level, it can be confirmed, for instance, that line 10 reads MIN(lugal) ^{u2-mi-na}7 rather than the 4 of the copy or the 5 of the edition, line 55 reads not la-[...] but ad-

[gi₄-gi₄], and 126' reads not MIN(dub-sar)-gal^{?'1}-mash-zu but MIN(dub-sar)-gal-la-an-zu. On the line level, the joining of D and AJ and the omission of a couple of lines in the copy of D mean that lines 210'–217' require significant emendation. There is also an entry i₃-du₈-gal between 178' and 179' not copied or included in the edition. In addition to such corrections, some quite long sections of previously unplaced and unused traces can now be placed.

More significantly, it has been possible to assign the great majority of the 41 sources to just 4 tablets; one tablet alone consists of around 20 fragments and is still only half complete. Inspection of the originals allowed numerous joins to be made but also in some cases where joins had seemed likely beforehand, these could be ruled out. Such information is of obvious interest for the reconstruction of the school where compositions such as this were copied. Furthermore, the attribution of fragments to tablets yields a clearer picture of the length, contents and structure of the composition at this site, and the relative positions of the surviving sections of text within it. As a result of this work, not only is this version of the composition better understood but also it is now possible to see more clearly how this version relates to other versions, from other sites and periods.

Jon Taylor

*Alan Millard's Note: Excavations at Emar in the mid-Euphrates uncovered archives of cuneiform tablets of the 13th century B.C. Among them are copies of standard Babylonian lexical texts, listing Sumerian words with their Akkadian meanings. The School's grant to Jon Taylor enabled first-hand study of the tablets in the Aleppo Museum.

The Sasanian and Islamic Glass from Kush (Ras Al-Khaimah, United Arab Emirates)¹

The excavations at Kush, in the emirate of Ras al- Khaimah (UAE), took place between 1995 and 2000 (Kennet 1997). They were organized by the Department of Antiquities and Museums of Ras al-Khaimah, and directed by Dr. Derek Kennet, University of Durham. The tell at Kush is now located on a silted-up lagoon two kilometres from the modern coastline, but would have been accessible to ships in antiquity. The excavations have revealed eight meters of archaeological deposits and produced evidence for a more-or-less continual occupation sequence dating from about the 3rd or 4th century A.D. to the 13th century A.D. The study of the materials and artefacts from the sequence provides new and detailed information about the changing patterns of trade in the western Indian Ocean in the Sasanian and early Islamic periods.

Among the finds were more than 5,000 fragments from ancient glass vessels. This material falls into three distinct chronological and cultural groups: (1) Roman-period vessels dating from the first century

A.D. or later, (2) Sasanian vessels dating from the third/fourth to sixth/seventh centuries, and (3) Islamic vessels dating from the eighth/ninth to 13th centuries. In addition, there were some fragments from more recent occupation phases at the site. Much of the glass was very fragmentary; virtually all of it was very heavily weathered, and some pieces were completely devitrified.

Roman-Period Vessels

In view of the date of the initial phase of occupation at Kush, it was surprising to find fragments of Roman glass dating to as early as the first century AD. These included pieces from two polychrome mosaic and two monochrome nonblown Roman vessels, as well as blown vessels. The pieces at Kush come from occupation deposits, suggesting that some kind of settlement may have existed there in the first century A.D. A few blown vessel fragments likely to belong to the first three centuries A.D. have also been recognized.

Sasanian Vessels

Many of the diagnostic fragments found in the Sasanian-period levels came either from thick-walled colorless and greenish bowls with heavy facet cutting or from undecorated open vessel forms.

Islamic Vessels

Three principal phases of occupation between the 8th/9th and 13th centuries have been recognized, and most of the glass found at Kush belongs to this period. A much wider range of forms is present than in the two earlier groups, and the inhabitants appear to have used glass for a greater variety of purposes, such as drinking vessels, serving vessels, containers and storage vessels, and objects, particularly beads and finger rings.

Discussion

Examination of the colour and quality of the glass has inevitably been hampered by the weathering and devitrification, but most of the glass appears to be pale bluish green, greenish colourless, or light green. A very small number of polychrome and strongly coloured fragments were noted, and good-quality colourless glass was not very common. The principal decorative techniques were cutting and mould blowing, and although the glass was competently made, none of the finds was particularly luxurious.

There are considerable differences in the use of glass in the different periods of occupation. Roman/Parthian and Sasanian glass was comparatively uncommon and probably exotic at Kush. In both periods, the glass assemblages were dominated by table wares, principally vessels for serving and consuming food and liquids. There was only a little evidence for the use of glass as containers for foodstuffs, or for storage of perfumes or cosmetics. By contrast, a large quantity of Islamic vessel glass was present in the settlement, and it was used for a wide range of purposes for a period of more than 500 years.

The traditions of production and the chronology of the Islamic vessel glass are not easy to determine. Axel von Saldern's (1996) overview of the state of our knowledge of Islamic glass has highlighted these problems. He pointed out that 80 percent or more of the vessel forms and decorative patterns of early Islamic glass are identical in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Iran; that local peculiarities are rarely noticeable; that decorative techniques appear to have continued virtually unchanged for centuries; and that many of the excavated sites have been assigned to periods covering 200 years, as they are not closely datable.

Against this background, and in the absence of comparable assemblages at the southeastern end of the Arabian Gulf, it would be premature to discuss whether the glass at Kush originated in Iraq and Iran or further afield, or whether it was produced quite locally. Indeed, the ordinariness of much of the material might argue for relatively local production rather than long-distance transport. Nonetheless, the stratified occupation deposits at Kush have the potential to provide a relative chronology for the glass used at the settlement, and we hope that the final outcome of the study of the material will be a useful contribution to glass studies in the Gulf region.

Footnotes

1. This report is a summary of the paper recently published by Price & Worrell (2003).

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Jennifer Price & Sally Worrell

BSAI WEB-SITE <http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq/>

Due to administrative changes at the Oriental Institute in Oxford, the School has taken over the maintenance of its web-site under the auspices of the British Academy. We wish to thank Elizabeth Will, formerly Secretary to the Sub-faculty of Near & Middle Eastern Studies, at the Oriental Institute for her past assistance in providing a 'home' for the School's Web-site during periods of transition. We are extremely grateful to Ms. Abigail Cooke of the British Academy for her considerable web-site assistance at this critical time in maintaining the site and providing a link to <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~wolf0126/>. This provides details of 'The threat to world heritage in Iraq', which gives many useful links to other web-sites.

WORLD-WIDE MEDIA ATTENTION

During the period of the looting in Iraq and in Baghdad, in particular, the media turned its attention to the heritage of Mesopotamia and to the tragic loss that was unfolding in front of the world. Many members of the BSAI Council were involved in radio, television and newspaper interviews at all hours of the day and night from all over the world. It was a frantic time. This article by Eleanor Robson reflects many of the sentiments that we all felt and continue to feel.

Eleanor Robson, Sunday April 13 2003, The Observer *'The collection lies in ruins, objects from a long, rich past in smithereens'*

This is a tragedy with echoes of past catastrophes: the Mongol sack of Baghdad in 1258, and the fifth-century destruction of the library of Alexandria. For the loss is not just Iraq's but ours, too.

Iraq has not been called the cradle of civilisation for nothing: 5,000 years ago it was the birthplace of writing, cities, codified law, mathematics, medicine, and astronomy. The House of Wisdom in ninth-century Baghdad kept classical scholarship alive and promoted a vigorous intellectual reaction to it while Europe was stumbling through the dark ages.

In 1976 - 10 years after its opening - the Iraq Museum published a catalogue with a mission statement. It read: "The relics of the past serve as reminders of what has been before, and as links in the chain of communication between past, present and future. The society which possesses many and fine museums has a correspondingly stronger historical memory than the society without them."

The catalogue described in loving detail many of the thousands of objects displayed in the 20 galleries, from 100,000-year-old stone tools from the Kirkuk area to Sumerian jewellery and gold from the third millennium BC, from Babylonian cuneiform tablets and Assyrian ivories to Parthian sculpture, glassware and manuscripts from medieval Baghdad.

Ten years after the 1991 Gulf war the museum opened its doors again despite sanctions, which meant staff went unpaid, conservation materials were unobtainable, and contact with foreign colleagues was restricted. The launch party was attended by more than 60 scholars representing the global academic community.

The museum's galleries are laid out in a quadrangle on two floors around the central courtyard, very like the British Museum. They are cool and dark, with natural light filtering through the skylights at the top of the rooms. The first galleries one enters contain sculptures from the Assyrian palaces in northern Iraq: magnificent life-size carvings showing the rulers of the Middle Eastern world in the ninth to seventh centuries BC. A sequence of smaller rooms houses innumerable fragments of exquisitely carved ivory furniture from the same palaces.

Further on are the Hatra galleries, devoted to the desert city which is Iraq's only Unesco world heritage site. Here are displayed the funerary statues of the men and women of Hatra: inhabitants of the border between the Roman and the Iranian worlds 2,000 years ago, who chose a glorious hybrid of eastern and western styles to commemorate their dead.

The Islamic galleries house tilework from medieval mosques, priceless Korans, fittings and furniture from ninth-century palaces, and jewellery, textiles and coins.

There was not enough time to see everything when I visited the museum two years ago, and now I never will. Most of the collection lies in ruins, trampled and smashed by looters if not stolen. Many objects from Iraq's long rich past are in smithereens.

After the previous Gulf war there was a project to document what had been lost to looting. It took five years to catalogue 4,000 objects, few of which have been recovered. This time the stakes are far higher and the problem immeasurably more difficult. Most immediately, the museum should be treated as a crime scene, both forensically and legally. Every reporter, photographer and sightseer risks disturbing the destruction stratum (as archaeologists would describe it) which must remain intact if anything is to be pieced together again. If the debris is swept up into bin bags it will be impossible to reconstruct. Second, border security should be stepped up to prevent as much as possible from leaving the country. Iraqi antiquities, probably from the Mosul or Basra museums, also ransacked last week, have already been spotted on the Paris art market.

Auction houses and dealers worldwide must look out for artefacts coming on to the market. Such objects will almost certainly have been illegally acquired and any documentation of ownership is likely to be fraudulent. Police must prosecute.

Unesco is holding an emergency meeting on Iraq next week. The US authorities must allow it into the country as soon as possible to begin working with Iraqi archaeologists and curators to reconstruct the shattered remnants of Iraq's heritage and rebuild links in the chain between past, present and future.

© Dr Eleanor Robson

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(To see this story with its related links on the Guardian Unlimited site, go to <http://www.guardian.co.uk>)

Editor's note:

Dr Robson is donating fees received for writing articles and giving interviews regarding the looted antiquities to a fund we are establishing to help Iraq with conservation and restoration of the antiquities damaged by the war and looting. Members and interested individuals are welcome to donate towards this fund for which a separate banking account will be established.

"Bombing could devastate rich remains of ancient cities"

Letter to the Editor of the Independent, Wednesday, March 5th 2003

Sir: In the summer of 2001 the world watched aghast as the Taliban demolished the Bamiyan buddhas. But that act of cultural desecration, horrifying as it was, pales into insignificance compared to the potential side-effects of an extended military campaign in Iraq.

At least 25,000 archaeological sites are registered in Iraq, although the real figure has been estimated at half a million. The country is littered with ancient remains. These include the cities of Ur, Babylon, Ashur, Nineveh, Nimrud (burial place of the Assyrian queens), and the Islamic glory of Samarra. The surviving surface remains of Uruk -- associated with the hero Gilgamesh -- occupy an area approximately half the size of Oxford. There you can still stand inside buildings erected nearly six thousand years ago, and the city had an occupied history of five millennia.

The prospect of aerial bombardment or of foreign troops in Iraq with their aims fixed primarily on military objectives has terrible implications for its cultural heritage. Many sites and standing monuments are easily visible from satellite photographs and could become targets. Internal political and social destabilisation following any intervention will have critical consequences for the remains of Iraq's ancient civilisations. Mosques, churches, desert forts, bridges and khans are all at risk, as are the treasures housed in Iraq's museums. The archaeological and historical heritage is a non-renewable resource. For details see <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~wolf0126>.

Imagine if Egypt or Greece were about to be bombed, for whatever reason. An assessment of the risks to its ancient sites would be high on the international agenda. But an attack on Iraq has the potential to be equally devastating. Although we are also acutely aware of the humanitarian crisis which may result from an invasion of Iraq, as archaeologists and historians we cannot stand back and idly watch -- or ignore -- the destruction of the world's first cities.

Dr HARRIET CRAWFORD, Chairman, British School of Archaeology in Iraq, on behalf of Council

JOHN BAINES, Professor of Egyptology, Oxford University

Dr JEREMY BLACK, Lecturer in Akkadian, Oxford University

Dr JEREMY JOHNS, Lecturer in Islamic Art and Archaeology, Oxford University

NICHOLAS POSTGATE, Professor of Mesopotamian Studies, Cambridge University

Dr ELEANOR ROBSON, Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford

Dr LUKE TREADWELL, Lecturer in Islamic Numismatics, Oxford University

NEWS FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM ON THE IRAQ MUSEUM

(MAY 1, 2003)

The Iraq Museum records are safe but have been scattered all over the 120 ransacked offices. Getting them into order, together with the photographs, then matching them up with the mass of material that has been packed away, in order to find out what is missing, will take months, if not years. The state of the storerooms has not yet been investigated, partly due to lack of electricity. The thieves broke in through a walled up doorway and the room visible through the hole is strewn with fragments.

Regarding the collections of cuneiform tablets, it looks hopeful. It all depends how deep the looters went into the stores. Neither this nor the wholesale smashing of statues, pots swept off shelves onto the ground etc. is taken into account by the upbeat assessment given by Bagdanos.

This information comes from Dr Donny George of the Iraq Museum, who was in the BM yesterday, and from Dr John Curtis, Keeper of the Department of the Ancient Near East, who brought back very depressing digital images of the devastation. Stomping around in hob-nail boots is not recommended, and collecting all the fragments according to object, is obviously a priority. If all objects from Iraq can be impounded, then this will take care of objects looted from sites, for which no records exist. A priority is for the US to man effective checkpoints at the borders - which is not the case at present.

Herewith, the list of objects which are definitely missing, as established in Baghdad last week by Dr Donny George of the Iraq Museum, and Dr John Curtis of the British Museum.

Preliminary and partial list of looted objects in the Iraq Museum, Baghdad
(Numbers in square brackets refer to F. Basmachi, Treasures of the Iraq Museum, Baghdad 1976; for illustrations, see <http://www.theartnewspaper.com/iraqmus/index.html>)

- Warka Vase alabaster vase decorated with reliefs, c. 3100 BC. From Uruk (IM 19606). [31]
- Warka Head lifesize female head, c. 3100 BC. From Uruk (IM 45434). [21]
- Rosettes of coloured stones, c. 2500 BC. From Tell Ubaid.
- Copper bull, c. 2500 BC. From Tell Ubaid.
- Sumerian statue.
- Headless, inscribed statue of King Entemena of Lagash, c. 2400 BC. [124]
- Copper statue base with the lower part of a seated figure holding the socket for a staff, with an inscription of King Naram-Sin of Akkad, c. 2250 BC. From Basekti.
- Boundary stone.
- Ten inscribed bricks.
- Statue of the reign of the Assyrian king Shalmaneser III.

- Ivory of lion attacking Nubian, c. 850-750 BC. From Nimrud (IM 56642).[175]
- Handle formed by double figure of nude female. From Nimrud (IM 56346). [176]
- Ivory chairback with five figures, c. 850-750 BC. From Nimrud (IM 61898).[178]
- Ivory chair-back with sun-disc symbol, c. 850-750 BC. From Nimrud (IM62722). [177]
- Limestone statue of Hermes, c. 200 BC. From Nineveh (IM 59094). [198]
- Head from time of Trajan. From Hatra (IM 73039). [234 centre]
- Marble statue of Poseidon, c. AD 160. From Hatra (IM 73005). [199]
- Head of marble statue (smashed) of Apollo, c. AD 160. From Hatra (IM 73004). [200]
- Marble statue of Eros, c. AD 160. From Hatra (IM 73041). [201]
- Lid of marble casket. From Hatra (IM 58068). [221]
- Limestone head in Parthian style. From Hatra (IM 56777). [234 left]
- Limestone head of Tyche. From Hatra (IM 73010). [234 right]
- Bronze head from a Greek figures of Nike. From Hatra.
- Head from marble statue of a seated goddess. From Hatra (IM 58086). [245]
- Wooden door from mosque in Mosul, 12th century AD. [277]
- Islamic wooden pillars.

Preliminary and partial list of damaged objects in the Iraq Museum

- Reconstructed lyre from Ur. Gold stripped off. [82]
- Terracotta lion, c. 1800 BC. From Tell Harmal (IM 52559-60). Smashed.[107]
- Terracotta lion, c. 1800 BC. From Haditha. Smashed.
- Pottery house model with rams heads. From Dokan Valley. Smashed.
- Caryatid Assyrian god. From Khorsabad (IM 25963/11949). Smashed. [140]
- Wall paintings removed from cases and smashed.

Dominique Collon

Please note: Some of this information has been circulated via BSAI & also Dr Jack Sasson's email lists. Many members do not have access to e-mail and we have chosen to repeat some of these reports or notices.

News of Gertrude Bell's Grave

We have heard through the courtesy of Sir John Graham in a letter from the Director of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, David Parker, about the visit in October from Area Director Mike Johnson to a number of sites and he reported that the 'Baghdad Civil Cemetery...found in as good a condition as any he saw if not better. The Armenian section of the cemetery is still in use and the grave of Gertrude Bell intact...'

BSAI LECTURES & FUTURE EVENTS

12th June 2003 at 5.30 pm (BSAI Forum at 5 pm) '**Looking for more of Dilmun: excavations at Saar, Bahrain 1990-99**' by **Dr Jane Moon OBE** at the British Academy, 10, Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

11th December 2003 the 70th BSAI AGM at 5.30 pm followed by a Lecture '**Balawat : the Study of an Assyrian City**' by **Dr John Curtis** at the British Academy, 10, Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

17 January 2004 – '**The Sumerians**', Oxford University, Continuing Education – see pg. 19 for full details.

March 2004 tbc

June 2004 "Our Scientific Debt to Iraq" by **Dr Emilie Savage-Smith**

A '**Languages of Iraq, ancient and modern**' study day is also in the planning stages. Further details to be forthcoming.

For further information on BSAI Lectures, please contact Mrs Joan Porter MacIver, BSAI Secretary, on Tel. 01440 785 244 or 020 7969 5274 (voice mail) or e-mail: bsai@britac.ac.uk

SPECIAL EXHIBITS & CONFERENCES

Iraq: Navel of the World, The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

(Heberden Coin Room Landing) 8-27 April and from 27 July 2003 'Iraq is the navel of the world', declared the 9th-century historian Yaqubi, 'and Baghdad is at its centre'. This exhibition brings together some highlights of the Ashmolean Museum's collection of ancient and pre-modern Iraqi collections to illustrate some aspects of past lives in the land that has been called the cradle of civilisation.

For more information about this exhibition, and associated Special Gallery Talks, see <<http://www.ashmol.ox.ac.uk/ash/events/>>.

49e Rencontre assyriologique internationale - NINEVEH

London 7-11 July 2003

The British Museum and the School of Oriental & African Studies are preparing to welcome Assyriologists and Near Eastern archaeologists for RAI 49 in July on the occasion of the museum's 250th anniversary. More than three hundred colleagues are expected to attend. In addition to papers on the main theme, Nineveh, there will be workshops on the Ur III period and on ancient Mesopotamian medicine.

Other papers will be devoted to new developments in research and in the field. Time will be found for discussion of the recent looting of the Iraq Museum and its aftermath.

Prospective participants are reminded that from 1 May the cost of registration for RAI 49 increased from 50 to 60 pounds sterling. Payment forms have been despatched, along with the second circular and a list of accommodation, to all who responded to the first circular.

Copies of the circulars and all other documents are available on the Rencontre website http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/rencontre/RAI_2003.html. These include a downloadable version of the payment form, which can be faxed to the registration office on +44 (0)20 7898 4329 or sent to: LMEI-RAI 49, SOAS, University of London, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, UK.

The third circular will be despatched to registered participants in mid-May, along with the draft programme, tickets for Sunday's Gilgamesh reading and other information.

Andrew George, for the Organising Committee

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Ancient Settlement in the Zammar Region -

Excavations by the British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq in the Saddam Dam Salvage Project, 1985-86 Volume One

Edited by Warwick Ball BAR S1096, 2003 ISBN 1 84171 474 7 (£35.00)
BAR (British Archaeological Reports) title from Archaeopress published in association with the British School of Archaeology in Iraq xiv+208 pages; 75 figures, plans, maps, drawings and illustrations; 58 b/w photographs Includes 24-page Arabic summary. With a forward by Michael Roaf (and with contributions by Stuart Campbell, Susan Gill, Anthony Green, Marion Pagan, St John Simpson, and David Tucker), Warwick Ball reports on the 1985-86 excavations by the British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq in the Saddam Dam Salvage Project.

The area under British investigation lay on the right bank of the Tigris approximately 100 km northwest of Mosul, in the Zammar sub-governorate (*nahiya*) of Nineveh Province. This volume contains an overview of the settlement sequence of the Zammar region (from 7th millennium BC), as well as the excavation reports of Siyana Ulya, Khirbet Shireena, She Qubba, Khirbet Karhasan, Tell Gir Matbakh, Tell Shelgiyya, and surveys of 28 other locations. A second volume will deal with the site of Tell Abu Dhahir and future publications are planned to present the pottery and specialist reports. The detailed record presented here is the first stage in making available the results of these investigations which will gain their full significance when the volumes dealing with the ceramics and other finds are released.

Available from: HADRIAN BOOKS LTD, 122 BANBURY ROAD, OXFORD OX2 7BP
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BSAI Committee Abbreviations: D = Member of Development Committee

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS – NEW JOINT MEMBERSHIP

The School is introducing a new category of full membership entitled 'Joint Membership' to enable affiliated couples in the field to be able to be full members of the school with voting rights for each member. At present the membership fee for this category is £40 per annum. There will only be one mailing to the designated address but both individuals will be deemed full members. If you wish to change your membership status to joint, please send the Secretary the name of your partner and an additional £10 membership fee.

**BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ
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Members receive *IRAQ*, the Annual Report and Accounts, two Newsletters per annum and are entitled to a 20% discount on all School publications, except Iraq Archaeological Reports. (All available through OXBOW Books or The David Brown Book Co.) Members receive invitations to at least three lectures a year, primarily held in London. Associate members are entitled to all the same benefits, except receipt of the Journal *IRAQ* and the right to vote at the AGM.

 To: The Secretary, British School of Archaeology in Iraq
 10, Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH, United Kingdom
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- Please renew my Membership of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq for 2003
- Please enrol me for Membership of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq for the 2003 membership year and the Journal, *IRAQ* Vol. LXV (November/December 2003)
- Please enrol me for Associate Membership of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq
- I wish to order *IRAQ* Vol. LXIV (2002) for £25 and have included this with my membership payment.

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The Sumerians
Oxford University Continuing Education
in association with the
British School of Archaeology in Iraq
The Sumerians, a day school, to be held on Saturday 17 January 2004
at Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford

In the Middle East, the rivers Tigris and Euphrates flow down through southern Iraq across the rich alluvial plain of ancient Mesopotamia. This was the home of the Sumerian civilisation which emerged over 6000 years ago and flourished for nearly 2000 years, before being absorbed by Babylonian and other later cultures of the region. This day school will consider some of the essential features of the Sumerians' complex society: great cities and monumental architecture, large-scale irrigation, elaborate bureaucracy and the earliest writing system, developed in the late 4th millennium BCE.

Programme

- 9.45 am Introduction – **Jeremy Black** (Oriental Institute, University of Oxford)
- 10.00 am From agriculture to ziggurats: an A-Z of Sumerian material culture - **Harriet Crawford** (Visiting Professor, Institute of Archaeology, University College London)
- 11.00 am Coffee/Tea
- 11.30 am The Sumerian language and cuneiform writing – **Jeremy Black**
- 12.45 am Lunch
- 2.00 pm Sumerian identity: common market- cultural community – political union – **Nicholas Postgate** (Professor of Assyriology, University of Cambridge)
- 3.00 pm Gods, kings, heroes and schoolboys: Sumerian literature and scribal education – **Eleanor Robson** (Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford)

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BSAI Member's application form for The Sumerians. If you would like to attend this course, please return this form with your remittance (made payable to OUDCE) to the Day School Administrator, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA Tel. 01865 270 368 or email: ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk

NAME:

ADDRESS: _____ **Day time tel. no.** _____

Please circle fee enclosed: With lunch £45 Without lunch £35
(Fees will only be refunded in exceptional circumstances.)

Vegetarian meals? YES / NO Do you require disabled access: YES / NO

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