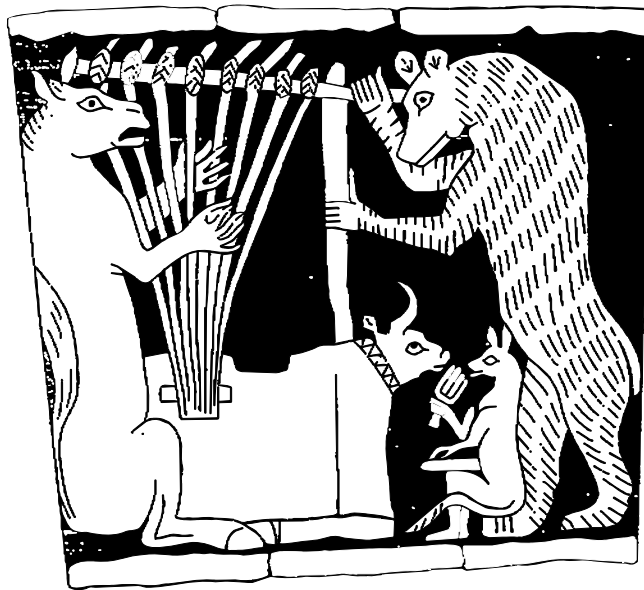


**BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY
IN IRAQ**

NEWSLETTER NO. 15

May 2005



**BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ
(GERTRUDE BELL MEMORIAL)**

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 219948

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The next BSAI Newsletter will be published in November 2005 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, 2005.

Joan Porter MacIver edits the BSAI Newsletter.

BSAI 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. The BSAI Fieldwork & Research Committee can be contacted via the Secretary.

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: Dancing bear, accompanied by animal musicians, a detail from the sound-box of a bison-headed lyre buried in a tomb of the 'Royal Cemetery' at Ur. Early Dynastic Period. Illustration by Tessa Rickards from *Gods, Demons and Symbols of Ancient Mesopotamia* by Jeremy Black and Anthony Green.

The Annual General Meeting in December 2004 saw the departure of one of our longest serving Council members. Dr Christopher Walker has always been a most knowledgeable and thoughtful member of Council, and we have all benefited from his wise advice. We are delighted that he has been replaced by Dr Jon Taylor from Birmingham, who is a linguist currently working as a Leverhulme Research Fellow on the Cuneiform Digital Palaeography Project at the University of Birmingham. His research interests encompass education and literacy in the ancient near east. We are also very pleased that Dr Eleanor Coghill, who joined us last summer as a co-opted member to replace Dr Black, has also been elected to serve on Council in her own right; her primary interest is in Semitic Languages, specializing in Neo-Aramaic dialects of Northern Iraq. It is especially valuable to have the views of younger scholars, such as Dr Coghill and Dr Taylor, represented on Council.

The School continues to sponsor conferences and day schools as part of its outreach programme, and we are would especially like to thank Dr Stephanie Dalley and Dr Erica Hunter for all their help in making this possible. In January Dr Dalley arranged another successful Day School in the Department of Continuing Education at Oxford on the Neo-Assyrians, and Dr Hunter arranged the second of her outstanding Study days on Christianity in Iraq in April. Both days were very well attended and stimulated a lot of interest. These Day Schools play an important part in raising peoples' awareness of the unique contribution that Iraq has made to the history of the world.

The Council and members of the School offer their warmest congratulations to Helen McDonald who has just been appointed to a post at the Oriental Institute in Chicago. She will be leaving England to take up her appointment in early May. Helen was the School's secretary- librarian in Baghdad until the School was forced to close in the aftermath of the first Gulf war, and then our first Senior Research Fellow. She has made an outstanding contribution to the work of the School both in Baghdad and then through her work on the Brak project under the direction of the late Professor and Dr Oates. We are extremely grateful to her for all she has done and wish her every success in her new life.

Another very warm thank you is also due to the British Council and especially to its director in Baghdad, Adrian Chadwick. A generous offer has allowed us finally to dispatch twenty-one boxes of books to Baghdad for the National Museum, the Mosul Museum and various other bodies. The books were given by members of the School with a particularly generous donation of many academic books from Dr Georgina Herrmann. The School has also donated multiple copies of its own recent publications. We are delighted that at last they have reached the people who need them most. Our Secretary also did a heroic job in packing and listing all the volumes, something which was certainly not in her original job description!

As a result of Dr John Curtis' visit to Babylon in December and his subsequent report, the DCMS offered some funding for 3 Iraqi archaeologists from Babylon to come to the UK for training, career development, and preparation of documents relating to Babylon. The visitors are: Dr. Maryam O.M. Al-Adee (in charge of the site of Babylon); Mr. Raad Hamid Al- Amari; and Mr. Haider A. Ariby. The School will be hosting a visit by them to Cambridge in the middle of May. We will show them around King's and Trinity Colleges and then will visit the Fitzwilliam Museum, where Dr Sally Ann Ashton has kindly agreed to show them round the museum. They are based at the British Museum but the Museum is also involving the World Monuments Fund, English Heritage and the Institute of Archaeology, University College London amongst others in their training. Sarah Collins of the British Museum has been the main co-ordinator of their stay to study heritage management in the UK.

Most of our readers will have heard of the death of Dr Roger Moorey just before Christmas and an obituary appears in this newsletter, but on a personal note I would like to add that Dr Moorey was one of the most generous scholars I have ever met, generous with both his time and his great fund of knowledge. He was always willing to answer questions from students or other scholars, somehow finding time to do this quickly and with unfailing courtesy in the midst of all his other duties. Many of us owe him a huge debt which we will not quickly forget.

Readers will also find an appreciation of the life of Mrs Rosalind Hicks in these pages. Mrs Hicks was Agatha Christie's daughter and a generous friend of the School. Her latest gift, shortly before she died, was the money which has allowed us to set up the Christie-Mallowan Scholarship, a fitting memorial to her kindness.

Harriet Crawford

IRAQ MUSEUM LIBRARY - The British Academy through its private funds made a donation to the Iraq Museum Library to refurbish and rebuild. Dr Lamia al Gailani Werr was instrumental in helping the Iraq Museum on this important work and in getting the funds out to Baghdad at a difficult time. In March Peter Brown, Secretary of the British Academy, received the following email message of thanks via the BSAI.

Dear Dr. Brown,

It is just a short message to let you know that how grateful we are here at the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage for your badly needed donation of twelve thousand Stirling Pounds which every penny of it was used for the refurbishing our Cuneiform Library and for the setting up a Bookbinding workshop annexed to our Museum Library.

I hope that we will be able to invite you to Baghdad as soon as the situation are more relaxed and more secured.

Sincerely Yours, Abdul Aziz Hameed, Chairman

ROSALIND HICKS (née Christie) 1919-2004

The School marks with regret the death of Rosalind Hicks at the end of October 2004. Rosalind was born on 5th August 1919, the only child of Archie and Agatha Christie. Her parents were divorced in 1927, after which Rosalind did not see her father again until after her mother's death in 1974. Rosalind's childhood was spent in London and Devon, and at Abney Hall, Manchester, the home of Agatha's sister, Madge.

In the summer of 1930, Agatha accepted a proposal of marriage from the young Max Mallowan who was then employed as a field archaeologist by Leonard Woolley, at the site of Ur, and whom she had met for the first time in March. It was Katharine Woolley who encouraged Max to take Agatha on a tour of the countryside thus giving them an opportunity to become friends. In England in April, Rosalind nearly died of pneumonia and it was a frantic dash by Agatha accompanied by Max across Europe by Orient Express that turned friendship into love. Anecdotal evidence suggests that it was Rosalind who was instrumental in persuading her mother to marry Max. Rosalind's clinching argument that Peter - her favourite dog - particularly liked Max, apparently convinced Agatha to accept Max's proposal.

Max was fifteen years younger than his wife, and fifteen years older than his stepdaughter. Max and Rosalind enjoyed a close relationship. Rosalind referred to him as her father. Max and she played tennis and went swimming together in the sea off the Devon coast. Rosalind Christie accompanied Max Mallowan and her mother to Tell Brak for the spring season of 1938, and her excellent drawing of Nuzu pottery appear as Plates LXXVI and LXXVII in Volume IX of *IRAQ* (1947).

During the War, Rosalind worked as a land girl in a farm near Greenway, and in 1941 married Captain Hubert Prichard of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. In September 1943 their son Mathew was born, and the Prichards moved into Pwyllwrach, Hubert's family house in Glamorganshire. Both Agatha and Max were devoted to their grandson. Hubert Prichard was killed in the last months of the War. In 1948 Rosalind married Anthony Hicks, a scholarly and kindly man who was interested in ancient Tibet, wine, gardens and travel. In 1966, after Mathew's marriage, they left Pwyllwrach and moved permanently to Devon so that they could be near Agatha (who was then 76) and Max.

After the death of her mother, Rosalind was tireless in her defence of her mother's reputation. As the popularity of her mother's books went from strength to strength, so did an interest in her mother's life. Rosalind had no time for idle speculation or sensational reporting. She fiercely protected her mother's right to privacy. On the other hand, she could be immensely helpful with projects which she felt enhanced her mother's reputation, particularly those which involved Max's archaeological work, in which she took great pride and interest. Charlotte Trümpler's exhibition *Agatha Christie and the*

Orient, which opened in Essen in 1999, was one particular project to which Rosalind contributed with generosity and imagination. It was she who produced the early moving films of excavation life at Chagar Bazar, Tell Brak and Nimrud, which were such a feature of the exhibition, together with many of the photographs. The exhibition, with the title *Agatha Christie and Archaeology, Mystery in Mesopotamia*, ran from November 2001 to March 2002 at the British Museum, and attracted some 45,000 visitors.

The School is particularly grateful to Rosalind Hicks for her generous donation which has enabled the establishment of the Christie-Mallowan scholarship, which sponsors scholars from Iraq to come to Britain for short term courses.

Henrietta McCall

ROGER MOOREY - Scholar of Near Eastern archaeology

Peter Roger Stuart Moorey, curator and scholar of the ancient Near East: born Bush Hill Park, Middlesex 30 May 1937; Assistant Keeper, Department of Antiquities, Ashmolean Museum 1961-73, Senior Assistant Keeper 1973-82, Keeper 1983-2002; Fellow, Wolfson College, Oxford 1976-2004 (Emeritus), Senior Research Fellow and Vicegerent 2002-04; FBA 1977; Vice-Chairman of Council, British Institute for the Archaeology and History of Jordan, Amman 1988-92; President, British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem 1990-98; died Oxford 23 December 2004.

Roger Moorey was the foremost scholar of his generation in the archaeology of the ancient Near East. His personal reputation drew to Oxford, where he was Keeper in the Department of Antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum until 2002, students and researchers from all over the world.

He was born in 1937 in Bush Hill Park, Middlesex. The early loss of his parents perhaps helped to shape a singularly independent and resolute character. He attended Mill Hill School, followed in 1956 by National Service, spent in Cyprus as a member of the Intelligence Corps. The Army instilled in him lifelong habits: punctuality, self-discipline, the rapid daily walk from home to work, and the maintenance of brilliantly polished shoes.

Going up to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in 1958, he read Modern History, but an interest in the ancient Near East had already been kindled in his schooldays, and he was a leading light in the university's Archaeological Society.

His entire career was spent in Oxford University at the Ashmolean Museum; he resisted the temptation to cross the Atlantic for a prestigious chair. He joined the Department of Antiquities in 1961, his duties covering Egypt as well as the rest of the Near East, which gave him an unusually broad view of ancient connections. It was a flourishing department under the Keepership of Robert Hamilton, himself distinguished in Near Eastern archaeology and pursuing an active acquisitions policy. The museum could still help to sponsor

excavations in the Near East in return for a share of small finds, and was also receiving significant donations. A series of exhibitions in the 1960s celebrated its links with generous collectors - most notably James Bomford - and a new Near Eastern gallery was installed.

At the end of the decade constitutional changes included the recommendation that the museum's curators should "assist in relevant teaching and research within the university": these were the activities closest to Roger Moorey's heart, and for almost 30 years he was a committed and influential teacher.

He was a good listener, whose breadth of interests, clear thinking, and humour could inspire his students and set them on course for their own achievements. He could communicate at all levels; a question from a member of the public was accorded as carefully considered an answer as a query from one of his professional peers, and he welcomed unreservedly the recent widening of the museum's involvement in public education.

He became Keeper of the Department of Antiquities in 1983, bringing to the post that wisdom and humanity which were equally esteemed at Wolfson College, where he was a Fellow from 1976, and in the university, as well as on the various national committees of which he was an eagerly sought member. He disliked confrontation and would work for a consensus. Latterly he acted for two periods as director of the museum, a post which he never wished for himself.

His prodigious output in writing and editing began even before the completion of his doctorate, awarded in 1967 for a catalogue of the museum's Persian bronzes which passed swiftly into print (*Catalogue of the Ancient Persian Bronzes in the Ashmolean Museum*, 1971). It was the first of several publications making available the museum's collections and excavated material from various archaeological sites.

Fieldwork was not a major element in his career - he excavated at Jerusalem in 1963 under Kathleen Kenyon, and in the 1970s worked at Abu Salabikh in Iraq under Nicholas Postgate - but he carried out an expert and extensive revision (1982) of *Ur of the Chaldees* by Leonard Woolley, whose exemplary excavation and recording he greatly admired; and his early connection with Palestinian archaeology informed his revision of Kenyon's *The Bible and Recent Archaeology* (1987).

Moorey was equally at home writing for the lay reader: *Archaeology, Artefacts and the Bible* (1969) initiated a series of Ashmolean handbooks, and *The Making of the Past: biblical lands* (1975) has been translated into many languages. His interest in materials and technology fuelled a fruitful, career-long collaboration with the Research Laboratory for Archaeology in Oxford. *Ancient Mesopotamian Materials and Industries* (1994) is his *magnum opus*, a majestic work which incorporates one scholar's comprehensive knowledge of a field.

A Fellow of the British Academy from 1977, Moorey delivered the academy's Schweich Lectures in 2001 on ancient Near Eastern clay figurines, a topic related to his last museum catalogue, *Idols of the People* (2003). Outside the university, his most active service was on behalf of the bodies which constitute Britain's official presence in the archaeology of Iraq, Syria, the Levant, and Israel.

Roger Moorey's enviable intellectual and human qualities were tempered with a very British reticence. His modesty was genuine and deep-rooted, and he never acknowledged the scale of his influence. He enjoyed good company, food and wine, and conversation, his own contributions to which showed his love of literature and history of all kinds; but he remained a very private person. He never married, but was devoted to his wider family.

After retirement from the Ashmolean in September 2002, he accepted a two-year appointment as Vicegerent of Wolfson, but he was looking forward to free time in which to begin a new book.

Stephanie Dalley and Helen Whitehouse

"Reprinted by permission from *The Independent, Obituaries*, 18 January 2005".

THE NIMRUD IVORIES PROJECT

The School's long-running programme of publishing catalogues of the ivories found at Nimrud is at last bearing fruit. Last December saw the third of a series of enjoyable and stimulating international seminars devoted to early first millennium studies of the Near East and East Mediterranean. The first two were organized in 1997 and 2000 at Fribourg by Christoph Uehlinger, then of the University of Fribourg now of Zurich: the first conference was published in 2000 (*Images as media, sources for the cultural history of the Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean, 1st millennium BCE*, ed. C. Uehlinger, OBO 175, Fribourg) and the next volume of papers is expected later this year. The third seminar, 'Syrian and Phoenician ivories of the early first millennium BCE: chronology, regional styles and iconographic repertoires, patterns of inter-regional distribution', was organized by Stefania Mazzoni, Serena Cecchini and Elena Scigliuzzo at Pisa in December 2004. The series is on-going; a fourth seminar is scheduled to take place in Mainz in November and a fifth in Erlangen in 2006. Participants at each of these seminars have included the contributors, other scholars, members of the public and students, with audiences of up to two hundred.

The success of these seminars is reflected in the fact that many students and young scholars have attended each meeting and have either prepared or are preparing theses and articles. Their work has been made possible by the School's ongoing publication programme of our remarkable archive of ivories.

Their studies are advancing our understanding of the minor art of the many Levantine states of the time.

The School's Ivory Programme

First, the database of the School's and the British Museum's ivories has been prepared by Jan Picton, using Filemaker, a programme which is accessible from both Macs and PCs. This is complete. We are very grateful to Jan for undertaking this demanding and tedious chore. The database is a magnificent tool.

Publication is currently focussed on the ivories from the acropolis. Scheduled for completion in 2005 is *Ivories from Nimrud VI, the North West Palace*, which includes the 19th century ivories found by A.H. Layard and H.C. Rawlinson, as well as those found by M.E.L. Mallowan and the Iraqi State Organization for Antiquities and Heritage in the 20th century. We are fortunate that the State Organization has given us permission both to re-publish the superb ivories from Well AJ, initially published in Arabic in 1987, and to publish the ivory/bone kohl-tubes found by Muzahim Mahmud in Well 4.

This programme has been made possible by the generosity of the Ancient Near East Department of the British Museum, which not only provides working space in the Museum and access to their excellent library but has agreed to the study and re-publication of their ivories. We would like to thank the Keeper, Dr John Curtis, for his support, and the Deputy Keeper, Christopher Walker, who looks after the ivories in the Museum, for his unstinting help. Even though the North West Palace catalogue is still only in preparation, we decided to start work on the ivories from the Burnt Palace: Christopher is scheduled to retire in December of this year and his participation is essential. The School therefore made a generous grant for work on the Nimrud Ivories project. As part of this work, Catherine Thomas, who has completed an MA at the Institute of Archaeology, is working on the Burnt Palace ivories. This will be a major task, as the collection consists of hundreds of burnt fragments, found both by Mallowan and, of course, by W.K. Loftus.

The ivories found by Max Mallowan on the acropolis and David Oates in Fort Shalmaneser and allocated to the Expedition were, of course, distributed to participating institutions. The Metropolitan Museum of Art was a major donor to the expedition and has an exceptionally fine collection. These include forty examples from the acropolis, among which is the superb 'Ugly Sister', a beautifully carved head belonging to the 'flame and frond' style-group, but unfortunately named because of the loss of her nose.

I had long planned to visit New York to record these ivories, and this I finally achieved in April, when I had the opportunity to visit both Chicago and New York and to lecture on the ivories. In Chicago, thanks to the kindness of McGuire Gibson and Clemens Reichel of the Oriental Institute, I was able to

see and photograph the Khorsabad ivories from the store, as well as see some in their newly-arranged and splendid galleries. The Khorsabad ivories belong to a single style-group, of which we find examples both in Fort Shalmaneser and from Room V/W in the North West Palace, so this opportunity was particularly valuable. I was also able to see the Megiddo ivories on exhibition and was reminded once again of the strong continuity between late 2nd and early 1st millennium ivories – a topic requiring more study.

In New York, my time was fully occupied photographing and recording the acropolis ivories in the MMA. I was given every assistance by Dr. Joan Aruz, the Curator of the Ancient Near East Department, and by Kim Benzel, Assistant Curator, and Shawn Osborne, Departmental Technician. Fortunately the timing was good, because the Ancient Near East Department is just starting a pioneering web-based project to make available their ivory, bone and shell collection. Superb digital photographs are being prepared in their Photographic Studio, which was a great comfort as I struggled for the first time with a digital camera. Joan Aruz, on looking at my efforts which Paul Collins had kindly downloaded (with which I was quite pleased), said ‘Never mind, we will let you have much better images from our studio!’ Give me my old Nikon manual 35 mm. any day.

A brief run round the galleries, which look fantastic, was all that I had time for at the end of my last day. A productive and enjoyable visit.

Georgina Herrmann, April, 2005.

STATEMENT from THE IRAQ MUSEUM POLICY FOR ACCESS TO THE COLLECTION FOR STUDY

Donny George requested that the following policy statement be broadcast widely. It was originally announced at the ICOM 2004 General Conference in Seoul. Posted via http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/OI_Public_Programs.html

The policy for access to study objects of the Iraqi Museums shall be as follows:

Access to the collection for purposes of study or cataloging shall be granted to all scholars, regardless of race, religion, gender or ethnicity. Access will be granted, depending on the condition of the objects and by previous approval and appointment with the museums. Research will be conducted within the museum's facilities. Access will not be granted to scholars and institutions that are known to work with stolen Iraqi antiquities or give expertise to the illicit market in antiquities, whether that work involves Mesopotamian Antiquities, the Cultural Heritage of Iraq, or antiquities illicitly acquired from other countries.

*Dr. Donny George, Director General, Iraqi Museums
December 2004*

THE UMMA PROJECT

Originally the Umma Project was intended to complement the archaeological work undertaken by the Iraqi Department of Antiquities at Umma and its immediate vicinity; however, the Umma Project now has taken an international dimension. We are co-operating with many projects including the database of Professor Manuel Molina of Spain, the database of Robert Englund of Los Angeles University and with the works of Professors F. Pomponio and F. D'Agostino of Italy. Our main contributor of knowledge was and indeed still is Professor Marcel Sigrist who provided us with many suggestions. Needless to say Dr. Marie-Christine Ludwig and Professor W. G. Lambert were and still always are ready to answer any questions arising. The core of the project was to transliterate the largest group of the British Museum collections of Ur III tablets from Umma. We almost finished that group. There are; however, several hundreds of documents which we would like to include in our project. These texts have to be gleaned from recent audit lists provided by Christopher Walker. We have to compare these lists with the database of Molina who catalogued most of the Umma texts to ensure that we do not duplicate his and other scholars' work.

Generally speaking, the documents we have dealt with are of varied sizes and shapes. The largest measured roughly 31 x 25 x 5 cm. and the smallest is 2 x 2 x 2 cm.; the colour of these tablets ranges between reddish brown which is the commonest, blackish brown, straw colour or yellowish brown and a brownish clay colour. Most of the documents are well preserved and many of them have been originally baked or baked by the finders in a *tinnûr*, an oven for unleavened bread, or left in their original dried clay form.

The largest texts were not sealed and only few of the medium sized texts were sealed, while most of the small sized documents were sealed. Commonly they were sealed before they were inscribed, but it is

not uncommon to find some texts sealed after they were inscribed or even both before and after.

The fact that the great majority of the UR III documents were sealed before they were inscribed sheds a good light on the bureaucratic administrative system. Moreover, the tablets we studied which have not contained seal impressions, were divided to show the place in which a seal impression might appear (See the copy of such a text below). From the study of these documents we can postulate that a development of organising the labour force and promoting their status, changing them from mere male slaves, irll, working in large gangs into gush, "heroes or workers receiving wages", working within small groups and supervised by ugula "overseers" most likely from amongst themselves, and giving the female workers, géme, some of their rights like granting them their wages and organising them into working groups within craft shops or "small factories"; all these factors lead us to believe that the Ur III era was a "capitalist society" before capitalism.____ Moreover, we can strengthen this idea by the fact the era concerned was well connected internationally specially from the point of trade, diplomacy and expansion.

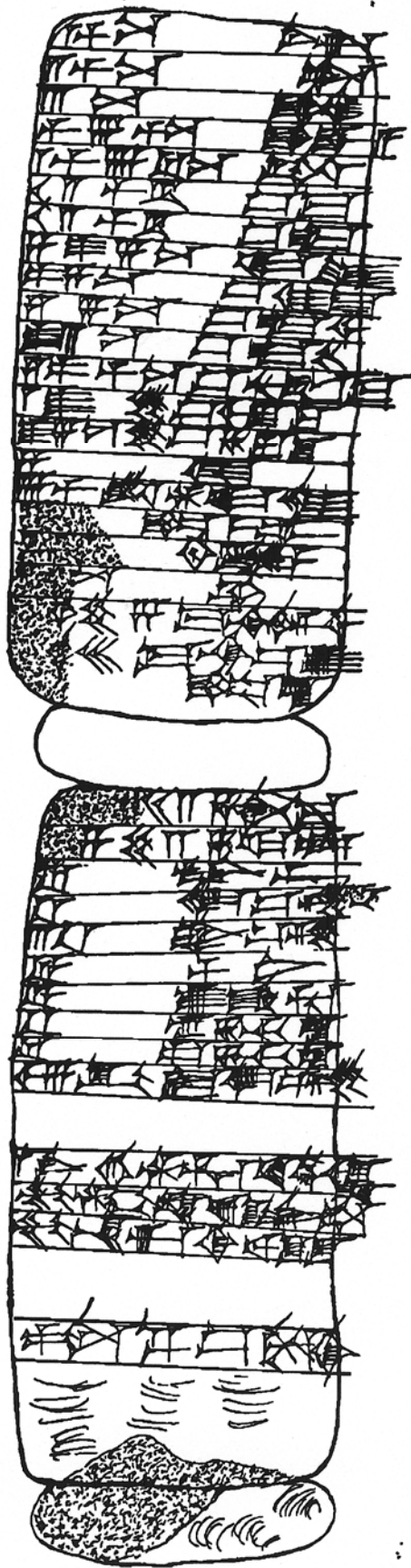
One of the future prospects of our project is the study of these texts in detail and the gleaning of materials to support other subjects such as the study of these documents by a specialist in the field of forensic archaeology who can trace the thumb prints and help to reconstruct these archives. Another field of study which has been largely neglected by Ur III scholars, is the diet of the Mesopotamians of that era. However, we know that the basic diet of the Mesopotamians, slave and free alike, was largely based on barley and other cereals. It is possible that the barley, wheat and other cereals were made into bread, probably unleavened flat-discs, æubuz, like those still eaten in Iraq today, other cereals made like porridge specially wheat, millet, rye, lentils, beans, chick peas and other kind of cereals. Another way of

preparing these cereals like barley was to make beer, the staple drink. Cakes could be made by mixing the flour of some cereals with honey, date syrup, ghee, sesame oil, milk and various fruits. Soups could be made from some types of processed wheat, millet, lentil, beans and peas, onions or other vegetables. Cucumber, cucurbits, cabbages, lettuce and other products of various plants, at that time, grown in Mesopotamia were also used. One of the most important sources of their diet was the many kinds of dates, date syrup, the heart of a date palm, gishimmar, *Jummar*. Also milk, yoghurt, many kind of cheese and butter. There were also lots of kinds of fruits such as apples, pears, figs, pomegranates, quinces, plums, grapes and apricots; also sesame seed and its byproducts. Meat of oxen, sheep, goats, pigs, many kind of birds, fish and other small and large animals were also eaten.

The bulk of our documents mention the distribution of many kinds of beer, bread, onion and fish to messengers. The other elements of the diet of the Mesopotamians could be gleaned from the text corpus. A particular feature of the Umma archives is the presence of individual texts which can illustrate a whole subject or at least part of it. The presence of such documents makes it possible to show such subject as diet. To put this in perspective we give here a copy of one of these texts, BM. 110 360:

As can be seen from the following text various elements of the diet of the Mesopotamians are mentioned. These elements include various types of meat, dairy products, fruits, eaten woods and other materials some of which we are unable to identify.

BM 110360



What has been said about the diet can be stated about many other subjects such as baskets, textiles, garments, leather bags, fish, cattle, donkeys, sheep and goats, gazelles, metal and metal objects, agricultural tools, numerals, measurements, orchards and gardens, etc.

The ripe fruits of our project will appear soon; the first volume of our transliterations will come to light within the coming two months in the series *Nisaba*, as we have been informed by our Italian colleagues. We hope that a second volume will follow and a third has been compiled, while the fourth is in the process of typing. All these aforementioned works and others which we have formulated would not be possible without the generous financial support of the BSAI, the help of Dr. John Curtis, Keeper of the Department of the Ancient Near East of the British Museum, and all the staff of the Department's Arched Room, and Prof. Andrew George at SOAS, to all of whom we express our thanks.

Dr Farouk al-Rawi and Christopher Walker

Academic programme for Iraqis, Amman, Jordan, August 2004

I had the pleasure of spending a week in Amman in August 2004, working with 55 Iraqi archaeologists and historians from a wide range of backgrounds. The educational project was funded by USAID and directed by Profs Elizabeth Stone and Paul Zimansky. Originally designed to take place in Iraq, for security reasons the sessions were relocated to Amman, Jordan where, apart from the occasional lap-top snatcher, the atmosphere was safe, peaceful and conducive to academic interaction. Elizabeth and Paul had organised a rich array of courses for the Iraqi participants, ranging from the detailed specifics of field methods to overview surveys of the latest developments in Near Eastern archaeology. The Iraqi participants came from three universities (Baghdad, Mosul, and Qaddisiyah) as well as from the State Directorate of Monuments and Museums. My role was to talk about three case-studies of archaeology in action, focussing in particular on research design. The case-studies included excavations at Jemdet Nasr and Tell Brak, as well as survey in north-central Turkey. Each session engendered lively discussion and many questions. I was very pleased to be able to carry to Amman 55 copies of my 2003 book *The Archaeology of Mesopotamia: Theories and Approaches* (Routledge) as a free gift to all Iraqi participants, made possible by generous assistance from Routledge (UK), the Institute of Archaeology, UCL, and the British School of Archaeology in Iraq.

This short spell in Amman was an opportunity for me to renew old friendships and to start some new ones. I am continuing email interactions with several of the Iraqi participants and have succeeded in sending books by normal mail to colleagues in Iraqi universities. I am deeply indebted to Elizabeth and Paul for

inviting me to participate and to all the Iraqi participants for their friendship and interaction.

For more on the programme see <http://www.sunysb.edu/usaidhead/>

Roger Matthews, Institute of Archaeology, UCL

News & Web-sites of Interest

BSAI Web-site www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq/ Please send any suggestions for links for the web-site to bsai@britac.ac.uk. David Thomas has assisted the Secretary in re-designing the web-site but more work is required by the secretary, time permitting, and expert volunteers are welcome to assist!

Other Web-sites

Tracking Lost Empires - A New Database Documents Iraqi Sites

By Emmett Berg and Louisa Woodville

<http://www.neh.fed.us/news/humanities/2004-11/lostempires.html>

New Policy on Cuneiform Texts from Iraq from American Schools of Oriental Research November 2004 <http://www.asor.org/textpolicy.htm>

The lecture by Joanne Farchakh Bajjaly, "Mesopotamia Endangered: Witnessing the Loss of History," given on February 7th at the University of California at Berkeley is now online as a webcast.berkeley Event. The URL is:

http://webcast.berkeley.edu/events/details.html?event_id=182

In addition there is an article on the BBC website by Joanne Farchakh Bajjaly http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/4461755.stm

Other Events

Workshop: "The Threat to Iraq's Cultural Heritage - Current Status and Future Prospects" (Chicago -- July 23, 2005) In conjunction with the 51e **Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale** (International Congress of Assyriology and Near Eastern Archaeology) to be held in Chicago (July 18 - 22, 2005), the Oriental Institute will host a workshop "The Threat to Iraq's Cultural Heritage-Current Status and Future Prospects" on Saturday, July 23 2005. Admission to this session is free-no separate registration is necessary. Location: Ida Noyes Hall (1212 E 59th St.), Max Palevski Theatre Time: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Subsequent information and updates on this workshop will be posted at

http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/iraq_ws.html

More information concerning this year's Rencontre can be found at

http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/rencontre/RAI_2005.html

FORTHCOMING BSAI PUBLICATION

***Studies in the Ancient History of Northern Iraq* by David Oates**

This is a facsimile reprint of the trail-blazing book by David Oates which has been out-of-print for far too long. It is primarily the report of his survey and excavation of sites in northern Iraq between 1954 and 1958. But it is at the same time a memorial to the great explorer, Sir Aurel Stein, whose pioneer fieldwork on the Roman frontiers in Iraq in 1938-39 provided the initial stimulus. Apart from preliminary summaries, this work remained unpublished in the difficult years between 1939 and Stein's death in Kabul in 1943.

Subsequent examination of Stein's draft-manuscript showed that further investigation and a more leisurely assessment were demanded by the range and importance of the subject and by changing perspectives. With the aid of the Stein Bequest to the British Academy, David Oates gave new substance to 'the lost traveller's dream', extending it widely into a more general account of the Mesopotamian scene from the Assyrian period in the second millennium BC to the struggles of Rome and Byzantium with the Parthians and Sasanians in the early centuries AD. The book concludes with a study of little-known Hellenistic, Roman and Parthian pottery, mostly from the author's excavations.

David Oates went on to serve the British School of Archaeology in Iraq as field director at Nimrud, director of the excavations at Tell al-Rimah, as Director of the School in Baghdad, Member of the Council, Chairman and President. David Oates died in 2003 and the reprinting of this volume by the School in his memory has been generously funded by The Charlotte Bonham-Carter Charitable Trust.

There have been no changes to the text or images (including a Foreword by Sir Mortimer Wheeler) and the pagination has remained the same. David's widow and long-time collaborator, Dr Joan Oates, has added a Preface illustrated by a photograph from the author's collection.

The photograph on the jacket is of a stele of Adad-nirari III (811-783 BC) found at Tell al-Rimah. (Price: £30 tbc) First Published 1968 by the British Academy; reprinted by the BSAI (2005)

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The School handles orders directly for issues after Vol. LI (except LVI-LVIII, which are out of print).

BSAI LECTURES & FUTURE EVENTS

12 May BSAI event (6.15 p.m.) in association with ABRAMS: Lecture by **Dr Harriet Crawford** on **Loss & Memory** followed by the launch of **'The Looting of the Iraq Museum, Baghdad: The Lost Legacy of Ancient Mesopotamia'** edited by Angela M.H. Schuster and Milbry Polk and Foreword by Donny George at the British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London.

3-4 June 2005 ICONOGRAPHY WITHOUT TEXTS A conference organised at the Warburg Institute by Paul Taylor. Admission is free. For further information and advance reservations please contact Elizabeth Witchell at the Warburg Institute WOBURN SQUARE, LONDON WC1H 0AB. Tel: (020) 7862 8909 e-mail: Elizabeth.Witchell@sas.ac.uk

This colloquium is supported by grants from the British Academy and the British School of Archaeology in Iraq.

9 June BSAI Forum (5.00 p.m.) & 23rd Bonham Carter Lecture **ZIPANG** performance (5.30 p.m.) in honour of Jeremy Black of **LUGALBANDA AND THE ANZUD BIRD** with Fran Hazelton accompanied by the Kurdish Iraqi harpist and singer Tara Jaff playing a working model of the Royal Harp of Ur. The academic sources for the retelling are: Jeremy Black, *Reading Sumerian Poetry*, The Athlone Press, 1998; Thorkild Jacobsen, *The Harps That Once: Sumerian Poetry in Translation*, Yale University Press, 1987; Herman Vanstiphout, *Epics of Sumerian Kings - The Matter of Aratta*, Society of Biblical Literature, 2003 at the British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1

15 December BSAI AGM & Lecture by **Dr Erica Hunter 'Hira as a centre of Christianity during the Sassanid - Islamic periods'** at the British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1

28 January 2006 – BABYLONIAN Study Day at Birkbeck College, London – Save the Date

ALL BSAI LECTURES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO INVITE GUESTS TO ATTEND.

Sir Terence Clark referred in his lecture in December 2004 on 'The noble art of the chase under the Abbasid Caliphs' to the book *Al-Mansur's Book On Hunting*, based on a translation that he with Muawiya Derhalli made of an edited version of a 13th century Arabic manuscript. This book was published by Aris & Phillips and is available from Oxbow Books, Park End Place, Oxford OX1 1HN (e-mail oxbow@oxbowbooks.com).

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Membership Note & Journal IRAQ LXVII

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