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The next BISI Newsletter will be published in May 2009. Brief contributions are welcomed on recent research, publications and events. They should be sent to BISI by post or e-mail to arrive by 15 April 2009. BISI Administrator Joan Porter MacIver edits the Newsletter.

Cover: Our new BISI logo with the beautiful calligraphy of our new name in Arabic (المعهد البريطاني لدراسة العراق) was drawn by Taha al-Hiti through the assistance of BISI Council member, Sir Terence Clark KBE. Taha al-Hiti was born in Baghdad in 1971 and began calligraphy at the age of six. He later studied under the master calligrapher Abbas al-Baghdady, who awarded him in 2005 his 'Ijaza' (licence). Meanwhile he graduated in architecture from Baghdad University and, after post-graduate studies in Islamic architecture in Vienna, he moved to London, where he practised as an architect for several years. He is at present senior architect/project manager on major building projects for a British company in Abu Dhabi. He has held exhibitions of his calligraphy in Baghdad, London, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The British Institute for the Study of Iraq is very grateful to Mr al-Hiti for providing us with such a wonderful example of his calligraphy for our logo.

We have been working for almost a full year now under our new title ‘The British Institute for the Study of Iraq’ and there is no doubt that it is taking some adjustment to remember to use ‘Institute’ instead of ‘School’. That said, we are making steady progress in widening our remit and supporting research projects and outreach programmes in other disciplines and time periods. Members will be asked to vote on a ballot for our Council nominations, who include a number of individuals drawn from academic backgrounds that strongly reflect these changes to provide the Institute with a breadth of expertise amongst its trustees. We continue to focus on our historical core work on the heritage of Iraq, the publication of the journal *Iraq* (now available on JSTOR at www.jstor.org) and in publishing our fieldwork reports and monographs (see p. 18). It is with great pleasure that I announce to BISI members that at the 54th *Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale* in Würzburg, Germany last July the International Association for Assyriology welcomed the affiliation of the British Institute for the Study in Iraq to its board with Jon Taylor (London) as BISI’s representative. Council is grateful to Dr Taylor for taking on this important role. In addition, we have also been focusing a great deal of our efforts on the visits of our Iraqi colleagues to forge stronger ties between UK academia and Iraqi academics – in part directly and through my involvement with other colleagues with the British Universities Iraq Consortium. I will be dealing with many of these activities below.

Our 2008 Annual Report is sent out to members with this newsletter (and will also be available online on our website). Many of our activities and efforts are already outlined in the report. From a financial standpoint we may find ourselves in some difficulties as of the 2009/2010 financial year when our British Academy grant ceases, but we remain determined to find a way to continue our various programmes and we will make sure members are kept apprised of our position. We appreciate the continuing support of our members with all these changes and we are very pleased to have welcomed almost fifty new members to BISI during 2008. We hope this is as much a reflection of our broadening remit as a genuine interest by many individuals in Iraq, ancient and modern.

In June Professor Elizabeth Stone delivered a lecture on 'The View from Above - Site Damage in Southern Iraq and Prospects for Understanding Mesopotamian Settlement Patterning', which presented some important results from satellite imaging and their relevance to issues of site looting and destruction in Iraq over the past few years. We were very pleased that she made it to the lecture as she had returned just a few days earlier from a visit to Southern Iraq with Dr John Curtis of the British Museum and other Iraqi and international colleagues to do an assessment of the sites in the South. A full report, ‘An Assessment of Archaeological sites in June 2008: An Iraqi-British Project’, by the team is available on the British Museum website along with other reports from previous visits from the British Museum to Iraq and a link will be on the BISI website as well.¹ On the evening of her talk, Professor

¹ (http://www.britishmuseum.org/PDF/Iraq%20Report_with%20images.pdf).

Stone was not in a position to discuss the visit in detail but she did share with the audience that some of the looting at sites was not as bad as previously thought. Many newspaper articles appeared after the press releases from the Museum a few days later.

Our Appeal efforts continue apace and we are delighted to announce that Sir Mark Allen, Simon Eccles-Williams and Bashir Siman have all joined the Appeal Committee at the invitation of Peter Davies, Chairman of the Appeal Committee. We have also held two Appeal Events since the last Newsletter. William Dalrymple gave a lecture in June on 'From the Holy Mountain: A Journey in the Shadow of Byzantium'. Dr Joan Oates, his lecturer from his Cambridge University days, gave the vote of thanks. (We also partially sponsored the conference 'Preludes to Urbanism' which took place in Dr Oates' honour for her 80th birthday in June in Cambridge.) This Appeal lecture took place at the British Museum and we wish to thank Dr Curtis of the Department of the Middle East and Rosanna Kwok of the Department of Learning & Audiences for their help in making the evening possible. In September, Sir Hilary Synnott discussed his experiences and his book 'Bad Days in Basra – My Turbulent Time as Britain's Man in Southern Iraq'. The question and answer period was as valuable to the audience as the talk itself and we are very grateful to Sir Hilary for sharing his experiences with us and for speaking so frankly about his time in Iraq. This event was very generously sponsored by **HE Sheikh Hamed Bin Ahmed Al Hamed** from Abu Dhabi. His donation provided a very welcome contribution to our Appeal Funds, which support our programme of sponsoring visits by Iraqi colleagues.

There are full details of the Appeal programme on the BISI website with an application form for Iraqi candidates to the visiting scholars programme. Members should feel free to let academic colleagues in Iraq know about the scheme. We would like to stress that these short-term research/training programmes are for work that is related to the study of Iraq and not for general study in the UK. We are happy to report that three scholars have been selected to come in 2009: two scholars from Mosul and one from Baghdad. Dr Harriet Crawford, Chairman of the BISI Visiting Scholars Committee, will be working out their research/training programmes. We are currently sponsoring the return visit of the Director of the Mosul Museum, who is presently in the UK pursuing intensive language training, working on research at the libraries of the Department of the Middle East at the British Museum and SOAS, and has recently spent time in Durham working with Dr Eleanor Wilkinson on the Digital Nineveh Archive (see Newsletter No. 21 pp 13-18) also in part under a BUIC grant. We wish to thank Mr Ed Ross, BISI and Harvard Club of the UK member, who has kindly opened his home to our BISI visitor. We have also partially funded the current visit of an artist selected by ArtRole from Erbil in Iraq at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in research and development. It is anticipated that the artist's research will centre around the host venue and northern England. Dr Abbas Al-Hussainy returned to Iraq over the summer. He had spent nine months in the UK under

the sponsorship of many groups including BISI, The Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust, along with the major support of the British Universities Iraq Consortium and UCL and the Scholars Rescue Fund. During his time in London Dr Al-Hussainy made good progress with the publication preparation of his excavations at the city of Marad in south Iraq, as well as co-authoring with me an article on 'The archaeological heritage of Iraq in historical perspective' published in the journal *Public Archaeology* 2008.

We awarded the following Research Grants in June: to Professor Mary Jacobus of the University of Cambridge (CRAASH) for a BISI Conference Grant (£3,057) to support 'Culture Wars: Heritage and Armed Conflict in the 21st Century', which takes places this December in Cambridge (There is a link on the events page of our website); to Toby Matthiesen, a BISI Research Travel Grant (£1820) to work on 'The State, Communalism and Transnationalism in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain'; and to Alison Jean Millerman for a Research Travel Grant (£1,445) to examine the American dimension to the excavations at Ur in the 1920's and 30's (see Report pp. 16-18). We awarded the following Development Grants in June: to Andy Lowings for the development of the Gold lyre of Ur project (£500) and to John Orna-Ornstein of the British Museum's London Programme in the Department of Learning and Audiences for 'Babylon in the community' (£1000). (In addition to the BISI grant, a further grant was made by the British Iraqi Friendship Society to ensure that this outreach work could take place.) We also provided a Publications Grant (£1,500) to Professor Alastair Northedge for preparation work on the *Archaeological Atlas of Samarra* (Samarra Studies II).

We have a number of forthcoming publications, whose details are on p. 18. With regard to our publications programme, we particularly wish to express our thanks to the British Museum and the editors, John Curtis, Henrietta McCall, Dominique Collon and Lamia al-Gailani Werr of *New Light on Nimrud, Proceedings of the Nimrud Conference 11th-13th March 2002*, for all their efforts in bringing this publication to press. Georgina Herrmann and Stuart Laidlaw with Helena Coffey have produced a valuable contribution to the understanding of Nimrud with their publication, *Ivories from Nimrud VI – Ivories from the North West Palace (1845-1992)*. St. John Simpson has published under the BAR series, *Excavations at Tell Abu Dhahir - Ancient Settlement in the Zammar Region: Excavations by the British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq in the Eski Mosul Dam Salvage Project, 1985-86, Volume Two* (edited and with a foreword by Warwick Ball).

In summary, I am happy to conclude that BISI is indeed busy doing almost all the things it has always done while at the same time taking on some new things it has not previously done, and all on a steadily diminishing budget. Our aim is to continue to rise to these challenges in the months and years ahead.

Roger Matthews

Report on the Excavations at Tell Brak, 2008

Excavations at Tell Brak during the spring of 2008 concentrated on developments during the site's initial urban expansion, the mid-Late Chalcolithic Period (c 4300-3600 BC). Our investigations continued work begun in 2007 in an industrial area on the main mound (Area TW) and in a sub-mound that marks Brak's northern limits (Tell Majnuna), where a series of mass graves was followed by deposition of industrial rubbish.

Tell Majnuna

This sub-mound was formed in the Late Chalcolithic 2 (c 4000 BC) through Late Chalcolithic 3 Period (until c 3600 BC). Our 2008 excavations comprised three trenches in Area MTW on its south-west edge, two trenches in Area EM and three trenches in Area EM-2, both at the south centre, and five soundings and trenches in Area EME towards its northeast edge (see Fig. 1).

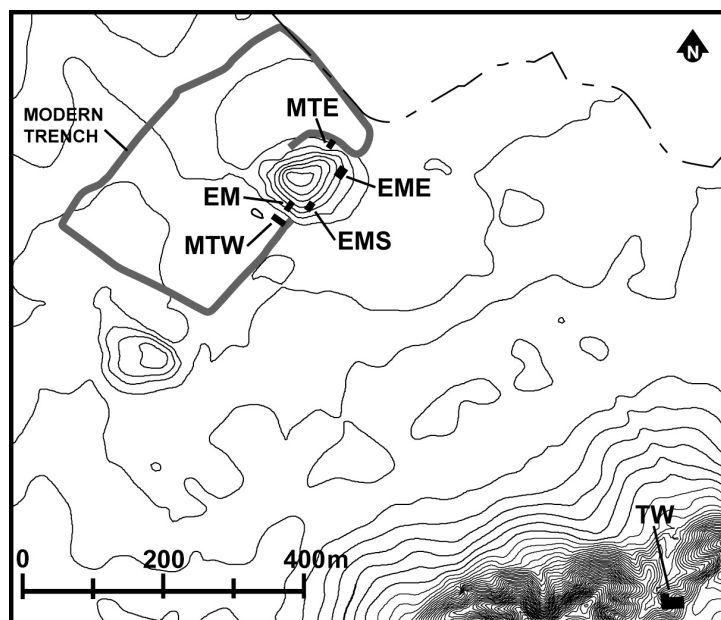


Fig. 1: Topographic Map of the northern edge of Tell Brak, with 2007 and 2008 excavations on Tell Majnuna and the main mound indicated.

Human remains were recovered in all the south-west trenches (all three trenches in MTW and both trenches in EM), as well as in two of the eastern trenches (EME 2 and 3). These human remains represent at least four different catastrophic events dated to c 3800-3600 BC, which had resulted in the deaths of primarily young adults, of both sexes. The minimum number of individuals from all the trenches together so far is 150; this number will surely increase as further analyses are conducted.

In Area MTW, we revealed an eastward extension of the dense deposit of human and animal bones that first drew our attention to the area in 2006

(and which was investigated during 2007; see the brief report in the November 2007 BISI newsletter). The bone deposit is clustered and somewhat discontinuous (a difference from the sample seen in 2007); there are both disarticulated and mostly articulated skeletons in this area, accompanied by animal remains representing large cuts of meat (see Fig. 2). The mass grave appears to have been a linear pile some 3 by 20+ meters in extent and may have contained over 150 individuals. There is an underlying sherd layer across most of this area, resting above a clay layer that itself was just above “natural” virgin soil.



Fig. 2: Human and animal bone deposit in MTW-4.

In Area EM, c 20 meters northeast of MTW, we completed excavation of another dense human and animal bone layer, which had been partially sampled in 2007. In contrast to Area MTW, the bones in Area EM were almost entirely disarticulated and splintered; the layer of bones was a continuous long strip some 5 x 1 meters in extent (see Fig. 3) and comprises more than 50 individuals, again, mostly young adults. Ceramics and sealings associated with the deposits in MTW and EM indicate that these two mass burials were approximately contemporary and are dated early in Late Chalcolithic 3 Period.



Fig 3: Human bone layer in Area EM.

There are indications that the human remains in Area EM were a selection of elements in a tertiary context, having been shifted from their original location at death and then further sorted and separated. Many of the bones were lightly polished from handling, and a number of pointed tools had been made from longer bones, particularly the femur (see Fig. 4). The tools appear to have been made for use *in situ*, rather than being made for use elsewhere, but the nature of the deposit remains ambiguous.



Fig. 4: Pointed and polished tool made from a human femur.

The third area in which we continued excavations from 2007 was Area EME; exposure of the later Late Chalcolithic 3 cemetery discovered in 2007 was extended to the north. The 32 skeletons here were entirely articulated, but some bodies in the north sector of the cemetery appear to have been buried quickly and haphazardly. These skeletons appear to have been flung down roughly, unlike the careful placement of the bodies further south. The ages indicate a majority of younger adults, similar to those in the mass graves. Finally, in Sounding EME-3 (10 meters west of the cemetery), we encountered yet another deposit of mixed disarticulated human remains (including a group of 12 human skulls; see Fig. 5). Ceramics indicate this smaller mass burial lies temporally between the MTW/EM deposits and the EME cemetery. Thus we have at least four events which resulted in death of healthy adults, followed in three cases by exposure, disarticulation and finally burial.



Fig. 5: Twelve Human Skulls and articulated human limbs in Sounding EME-3

In all the areas excavated, we have revealed sloping layers of rubbish above the human remains (ash, large quantities of pottery, flints, sealings and figurines) of up to c 5 meters' depth. The consistency of ceramic types through the stratigraphy, plus the presence of sealings bearing the same stamp seal image from layers separated by more than a meter's depth, both indicate that the rubbish at the western edge of the mound in particular had accumulated very quickly. Other than the eroded base of a probable Neo-Assyrian mud-brick platform in Area EM, there is no architecture in any of our trenches, and the Late Chalcolithic mound appears to be composed entirely of rubbish and bone deposits.

The Late Chalcolithic 2-3 period precedes the heavily-researched southern Mesopotamian (Southern Uruk) expansion episode and saw local urban expansion and development of a new administrative complexity, evidenced by sealings (see below) and monumental architecture on the main mound. The human remains from Majnuna, and the probability that the individuals met a sudden simultaneous death, indicates that the urban expansion and developing hierarchies of power and wealth were achieved despite or because of violent conflict.

Approximately 700 clay sealings with stamp seal impressions were recovered from Tell Majnuna during 2008 (added to the c 250 impressions from 2007). The majority of these sealings present scenes of lions attacking goats or gazelles, but there are also lions in nets, vultures, snakes, and both human (see Fig. 6) and hybrid figures. Most of the sealings are from containers: baskets, reed boxes and jars. Clay figurines, polishing stones, grinding stones and masses of flint and obsidian tools and debitage from tool production complete the assemblage. The extremely large quantities of all the materials, especially pottery, suggest an industrial scale of rubbish production, beyond the household level. This information fits well with our ongoing investigations of industrial development in Area TW on the main mound (see below).



*Fig. 6:
Sealing from Area EM with
human figure in pointed horned
hat and fringed garment.*

Main Mound, Area TW

We have now reached the early-mid Late Chalcolithic 2 Period (c 4300-4200 BC) in this long-term excavation (Level 22). The lowest level exposed in 2007 had consisted of small ephemeral structures, ovens, pits and similar features. The level below this, Level 22, was revealed in 2008 to consist of more substantial architecture, a multi-roomed building at the south and a slightly later large oven with two attached rooms to the north. In one room of the southern building, shallow plates had been abandoned on the floor within a niche (see Fig. 7). The northern oven building is paralleled at Tepe Gawra; the oven (over 2 m in diameter) seems too large to have had a household purpose, and we assume it was used for baking large quantities of bread or (perhaps) roasting meat.



Fig. 7: Room in Level 22 Building with plates in niche

The southern building has at least three rooms in a north-south line, but its eastern extent was unfortunately beyond the boundaries of our excavation. Its external wall on the west was rebuilt several times and in one phase had three evenly-spaced long jars set laterally across its width, possibly for storage or air circulation. All the architecture in this level is concentrated in the eastern portion of our trench, while the western side had multiple outdoor layers and surfaces, alternately clean or sherd-covered, sloping down towards the west. In subsequent levels of the Late Chalcolithic 2-3 (TW Levels 20 through at least 18), the western portion of this trench comprises an access route, a street or alley. It now seems that this later street formed in an area that was at one point an open space and that access to the settlement through this area had a lengthy history.

The obsidian assemblage from TW Level 22 is rich and variable; the colours represented (clear, brown, green and grey) may indicate multiple

sources, while the abundant debitage (small chips and flakes, cores) imply that industrial-scale production of tools took place within the area. Other industrial activities occurring in Area TW may include manufacture of shell inlays, production of beads of obsidian and other stones, roasting of grain or meat in large ovens, and textile manufacture (spindle whorls were frequent). Sealings from containers and doors indicate that systematic control of goods and access to goods was already well developed. Infant burials were occasionally found, as in later levels, placed in jars or in small pits, with no grave goods or at most a few shell beads (see Fig. 8).



Fig. 8: Infant Burial in Area TW, Level 22.

Our excavations in Area TW thus continue to reveal that economic complexity and hierarchy were already developing in the 5th millennium BC in northern Mesopotamia. Many industrial activities had already moved out of the “household” sphere by the later 5th millennium BC and into separate workshops, while the evidence of sealings indicates a multi-level hierarchy was involved in administering and controlling access and movement of raw materials and/or manufactured items.

We would like to express our thanks to Sd. Abdel-Massih Baghdo and Sd. Hussein Yusuf of the Hasseke Department of Antiquities for their generous support and assistance, and to express our gratitude to Dr. Bassam Jamous and Dr. Michel al-Maqdissi of the Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums in Damascus for the permission to conduct this work and for their support for the Tell Brak Project.

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Many thanks to the 2008 team:
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Mr. Adam Stone (Cambridge)
Dr. Jill Weber (Philadelphia)
Mr. Matthew Williams (Cambridge)
Prof. Henry Wright (Ann Arbor, Michigan)

*Augusta McMahon
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**Preludes to urbanism:
a conference in honour of Dr Joan Oates's 80th birthday**

The conference took place at the McDonald Institute in Cambridge and was attended by between 40 and 45 people. This proved to be an ideal size. Many of the speakers and participants already knew each other and some excellent discussions took place both within the sessions and over tea and coffee.

Papers focussed on the LC2/3 periods in North Mesopotamia (early/middle Uruk in southern terms) and divided into three broad groups. The first group dealt with the larger issues, such as the possible movements of people from east to west, from the Habur to the middle Euphrates, the origin of cities, and the role of warfare in these early periods. This last theme linked the larger themes with specific evidence from Brak, where the discovery of several hundred apparently contemporary bodies buried simultaneously after a period of exposure makes war a likely explanation. In addition, there seems to be evidence for rather selective cannibalism. There are also indications of a rather different sort of violence at Hamoukar.

Other papers dealt with material from the lower levels at Tell Brak in area TW and looked at a variety of evidence for the changes in an immediately pre-

urban society which were taking place here. These began with a paper on the remarkable composite vessel known as the Brak chalice. Other topics covered included:

- the increase in animal husbandry and the related changes in the relationship with the indigenous wild animal population. Bears and foxes were sought for their pelts, lions were also hunted presumably to protect the flocks;
- the patterns of pottery and obsidian manufacture which were contrasted at Hamoukar and Brak where manufacture seems to be on a smaller scale. This difference may in part have been dictated by considerations of space as the evidence from Hamoukar comes from the lower town where there is ample space, while that at Brak it comes from the mound itself, a much more constricted area;
- A discussion of seals stressed the important roles played by colonisation on the one hand and hybridisation on the other. There seem to be close relations between the Brak sealings and those from Susa in the south east and Jebel Aruda/Habuba Kabira on the middle Euphrates.

Finally, two papers looked the wider Uruk world, which seems to be expanding exponentially with Uruk related wares now reported from Daghestan and Caucasia. The contemporary Iranian sequences were examined and the origin of the proto-Elamite style touched on. Recently excavated sites from south-west Iran are throwing new light on the chronology of this period.

Although the evidence was largely drawn from Brak, and to a lesser extent from Hamoukar, the patterns which are emerging from the data have much wider significance. It is clear that developments parallel to those taking place in the south of the country at approximately the same time were transforming society. It may, indeed, even be time to reconsider the long-held assumption that cities emerged earlier and uniquely in southern Mesopotamia.

The organisers wish to thank the BISI for its generous contribution towards the cost of the event, Professor Graeme Barker for the generous hospitality offered to us by the McDonald Institute and to Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern for hosting a most enjoyable dinner at Girton College. They would also like to thank the speakers who flew in from the States, Moscow and Syria in order to be with us, many of whom also found their own expenses. Without such kind and generous support from so many people the conference could not have taken place.

It is hoped, if some financial support can be found, that the conference papers will shortly be published by the McDonald Institute.

Harriet Crawford

Samarra Small Finds project

Discussion meeting supported by BISI at the British Museum, 13 November 2007

Samarra was the second capital of the Abbasid dynasty and was founded by the caliph al-Mu'tasim in 836 AD. The site covers 57 km², one of the largest archaeological sites in the world. It was occupied by the caliphs until the end of the 9th century after which they returned to Baghdad, although a smaller Samarra exists today. The site was excavated by Ernst Herzfeld between 1911 and 1913. The finds from Samarra include coins, pottery, glass, stucco and much else. This material is considered the bedrock of the study of Islamic art. At the end of the excavation, Herzfeld's finds were left at the site and in 1921 were shipped to London where they were divided up into type sets and dispersed across a large number of museums (over 20 museums and archives now have Samarra material).

While the site has been studied, most recently and extensively by Alastair Northedge (*The Historical Topography of Samarra, Samarra Studies I* BSAI 2005), the dispersal of the finds has meant that this important material has been neglected and while it is often referred to, the pottery in particular, its study has been piecemeal. A project to digitise these extensive finds and make them available on a dedicated website, was conceived in 2004 by Christoph Konrad (University of Bonn) and Mariam Rosser-Owen (Curator, V&A). It aimed to bring all the material in the different museums together and join them with the records of the excavations that are in the archives of the Freer gallery of Art. The war and the political situation in Iraq lent urgency to what was already a long overdue project.

Christoph Konrad and Mariam Rosser-Owen created a useful website www.samarrafinds.info/infoEN/finds/index.htm (account: visitor, password Samarra) with sample entries of stucco from the Victoria and Albert museum to get it started. They made an application to the Getty Foundation in May 2006 which was unsuccessful. In the meantime, Mariam Rosser-Owen organised a programme of research into the materials used in the painting of Samarra stucco which was published as 'Raman analysis of ninth-century Iraqi stuccoes from Samarra' (*Journal of Archaeological Science* 2007).

There is no doubt of the importance of the project but without funding and institutional backing, this project, which requires a great deal of organisation, had stalled. It was agreed by those involved that a meeting was needed to tackle questions and ways forward face to face. With the support of BISI therefore, a meeting was convened to look at the options of how to proceed. It was timed to coincide with the British Academy BASIS meeting at which BISI had a presence with Alastair Northedge making a presentation on Samarra. BISI's support ensured that at the meeting was Christoph Konrad from Bonn and Fatma Dahmani, a student of Alastair Northedge working on the painted stucco. This was in addition to Alastair Northedge Mariam Rosser-Owen, Venetia Porter, St John Simpson and Sheila Canby.

The main areas of discussion centred on the following:

- History and aims of the project
- Key outcomes
- Management of the project
- Key partners
- Bringing in the Iraqi colleagues and collections
- The role of the individual institutions
- Format of the database and how individual institutions link in.
- Languages (including Arabic)
- The elements to be brought together: small finds, documents particularly the Herzfeld archive
- Accessibility
- Spin offs from the database
- Funding

This was an extremely fruitful meeting and all the points above were discussed in detail. A series of steps were agreed upon which would be preparatory to making another funding application.

Next steps and progress since the meeting:

Each individual institution with holdings of Samarra material was to be contacted to find out exactly the extent of their collections and their willingness and ability to participate in the project. This mapping process would form the basis of an application to a major funding body.

The process of discussion with other institutions has already started and the Louvre has already digitised their stucco collection.

As regards the collections in Iraq, it was agreed that they should be included as soon as practicable and discussion with Dr Abbas al-Husseini indicated that he was pleased at the initiative and he would be pleased for the Iraqi collections to be included.

An interesting development is the Louvre initiative as regards the history of Islamic lusterware in which the pottery of Abbasid Iraq, much of which has been found at Samarra, plays a key role. This was the focus of a recent exhibition at the Musée Cluny in Paris (*Reflets d'Or: d'Orient en Occident la céramique lustrée* Paris 2008). A spin off of the exhibition was scientific analysis that was done on early Abbasid lustre focusing on the contemporary lustre finds from Susa. It is now likely that this project of analysis will be extended to include material from the British Museum Samarra collection. Research such as this demonstrates the continuing importance of Samarra material and the huge benefits that will be derived from the existence of the database.

Venetia Porter

The Spinning of Ur

My research concerns the background of the archaeological excavation at Ur, southern Iraq, during the 1920's and 30's, that was led by Sir Leonard Woolley. In particular, I am examining the representation of the excavation in both the public and academic arenas through a study of the main characters involved. Woolley's excavation is still fundamental to our knowledge of archaeology in that region. Current thought often dismisses much of his approach to and interpretation of his work, as having been "bible driven" and of little scientific validity, but ignores the value of understanding the relationship between the excavator and the wider community from which his funding derived. My study is an opportunity to examine how knowledge is disseminated, how the archaeological past has been created and used, and how the interpretations presented entered the zeitgeist and still resonate today.

My initial research has focused on the location, transcription and integration of widely dispersed source material. The Ur expedition was jointly launched and funded by the British Museum and the University of Pennsylvania Museum, Philadelphia and it became necessary to my research to examine the American perspective to the excavation by studying the archives kept at Philadelphia. I am grateful to BISI for awarding me a grant which enabled me to do this.

The correspondence archives in Philadelphia record the early tentative discussions that took place between Gordon, Director of UOP Museum, Philadelphia, and Kenyon, Director of the British Museum; why Ur was chosen as the most promising site for excavation, and the precarious and troublesome financial arrangement agreed between the joint partners. The funding problems that dogged Ur throughout its run became fundamental to the way in which Ur was interpreted and presented. Far from simply being a campaign that was "bible driven", the campaign was in fact one that was driven by a desperate lack of funding.

Gordon was strongly encouraged by Stephen Langdon, during his tenure as curator at Philadelphia (he was appointed in 1913 to interpret the clay tablets found at Nippur), to regard Ur and its environs as the most likely site to find the "world's first library of clay tablets". Whichever museum was first in the field at the end of hostilities (World War 1) was likely to be amply rewarded. When it became apparent at the end of the war that Britain was to have mandate in Iraq, Gordon pressed for a joint expedition with the BM. He was aware that the BM had no funds to launch a new expedition in the aftermath of the war, but they were in a powerful position to get permission to excavate. They also had local knowledge and experience in the area. There was also the opinion that with Britain holding the mandate, all the finds from the excavation would become the property of the joint partners. It was therefore agreed that the BM would provide most of the expertise for the proposed venture, and Philadelphia would provide most of the funding.

After the post war situation in Iraq stabilized, permission was given by Lawrence at the Colonial Office for the Joint Expedition to begin. Within days of the excavation beginning however, Howard Carter announced his discovery of Tutankhamen's intact tomb in Egypt.

Ur immediately became overshadowed in the press, causing Gordon to instigate many derisory articles about the modernity of Tutankhamen compared to the great antiquity of Ur.

As Gordon tried to appease his sponsors of Ur with the promise of great rewards to come, the ground shifted again as a new Antiquity Law came into effect in Iraq, giving half the finds from the excavation to Iraq's new museum in Baghdad, the remaining half to be divided between Philadelphia and the BM. These were not the results that the Americans had been expecting, and the funding arrangements became strained to breaking point.

The BM now was expected to find half the funding for the expedition, and Gordon had to justify the continued support of the campaign to his sponsors.

A press campaign began in both countries as Ur now became synonymous with Old Testament tradition, the birthplace of Abraham. The British press were fed information by a very co-ordinated publicity campaign led by Woolley and his associates, while in America, Gordon showed that he was a master of publicity as well. The most surprising aspect of my research in Philadelphia was the discovery of how much the American press loved the Ur campaign and were particularly proud of America's role in this major event – reports were dominated by large illustrations of biblical scenes and dramatic headlines of the “City where Abraham was born - how Americans will go back to the beginning of Sacred History and teach the world that these men and women really lived.” (Buffalo NY Express 10.07.1921)

The reporting of the British press began to seem very restrained in comparison.

The targeted audience loved it too, and the subscriptions to the excavation began to pour in as the campaign began to attract the attention of the devout and the wealthy. The campaigns to promote Ur show a very modern understanding of their audience, and the needs and expectations that they had.

Despite the colorful and dramatic reports that appeared in the press however, the correspondence between Gordon, Kenyon and Woolley remained business-like and professional. Religious references were strictly for the benefit of subscribers, Kenyon merely observing to Gordon that Woolley had come up with a plan to raise money, but wasn't sure what it was.

My research in Philadelphia, when combined with the archives in Britain, hopes to bring a clearer understanding to the representation of Ur, and explain the reasons for “the spin” that was placed on the findings, which rather than

diminishing the worthiness of the excavation, illustrate a great deal about the workings of British and American archaeology during the inter-war period.

Alison Millerman

Make and Bake your own Clay Tablet workshops 6 & 13 September 2008

The idea for these workshops began with Fran Hazelton, chair of the Enheduanna Society, who also studies Akkadian at Birkbeck College. Our goal was to bring together a number of organisations to collaborate on two outreach events devoted to clay and cuneiform writing. Through the generosity of a BISI Development grant of £780, colleagues from the Holborn Community Development Project (HCDP); the Archaeology Department, Faculty of Lifelong Learning, Birkbeck College; the Department of the Middle East, British Museum; and the Enheduanna Society were able to deliver two free workshops to a diverse group of people. Birkbeck College supplied funds for their Assyriologist (Frans van Koppen) to participate in both workshops, as well as publicity for the first workshop and the copyright fee for an activity used in the second workshop. The Enheduanna Society provided the styluses for both workshops and HCDP provided the workspace and tools (clay, work surfaces, modelling tools, slips, glazes, firing facilities) free of charge for both workshops.

Our workshops were held at the 1A Centre, HCDP, 1A Rosebery Avenue, London EC1, which has a dedicated ceramics studio with kiln. The first workshop brought together fifteen students of cuneiform who spent three hours fashioning and writing on various clay shapes (e.g., tablets, cones, statuary). Our group included a professional calligrapher (who is now writing a book on Egyptian hieroglyphs), a professional archaeological artist of the ancient Middle East, a Masters student in Assyriology at SOAS, a Ph.D. student in Ancient History (Assyriology) at UCL, students from Dr Fran Reynolds' summer Sumerian courses, and Birkbeck Akkadian students. Feedback from the participants indicated their great appreciation for this kind of workshop. Frans van Koppen and Jon Taylor (Middle East Dept, BM), our resident Assyriologists for both workshops, provided guidance and encouragement with numerous hand-outs of printed images, scripts and good one-liners. Colleen Rogers, the 1A Centre ceramicist, discussed properties of clay, as well as the firing process while instructing us in the techniques of modelling clay; and Karen Radner (History Dept, UCL) happened to bring along her own styluses which provided a v. interesting comparison with those supplied by the Enheduanna Society. There was much discussion about how ancient scribes achieved the kinds of writing styles they did, and this discussion continued well after the workshop had ended (with some participants experimenting at home with their own homemade styluses). Participants retrieved their fired tablets two weeks later and this also engendered discussion concerning the weight of fired tablets, durability, and other actual differences pre- and post-firing. Frans van Koppen placed one of his tablets in a clay envelope, and, once fired, then demonstrated before his

Akkadian class at Birkbeck how simple it is to crack open the envelope without damaging the tablet inside (though one needs the right instrument to do this adroitly).

The second workshop, which was more general in scope, was aimed at families that utilise HCDP's facilities. Our goal was to introduce some of the scripts and stories of ancient Iraq to complete beginners. Frans, Jon and Colleen were joined in this workshop by ZIPANG performers June Peters, storyteller, and Tara Jaff, harpist. This workshop lasted for six hours and brought together a total of twenty-five children, aged three to ten, as well as their parents. The children appeared to be immersed in whatever activity we set before them and the parents remarked how much they had learnt throughout the day. June re-told *Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta* (a story in which the first letter is written from one king to another) by using a variety of props and activities involving all the children and their parents (as well as all the Assyriologists). The children were also happily lulled by the harp and sang a song together with Tara. This was followed by a series of short talks and activities in which Frans described the many uses of clay in ancient and modern Iraq, including building with it; and his talk was followed by colouring in and 'building' paper models of structures at Persepolis. Jon described how writing came about in Mesopotamia; and his talk was followed by showing the children how to fashion and write cuneiform on clay: we were all (frankly) amazed at how the children took to this and how well they wrote! The success of this workshop was mainly due to the efforts of Frans, Jon and June, who worked closely together to achieve continuity between her re-telling of *Enmerkar* and their brief talks on clay and writing. Through this workshop we discovered (somehow) how to grip young children and their parents with the invention of writing. HCDP's project manager, Caroline Lister, with whom I worked most closely on these workshops, is eager for us to provide more cuneiform events at the 1A Centre in future.

Mariana Giovino

OTHER BISI RELATED NEWS REPORTS – GREENWAY, DEVON

Agatha Christie's house at Greenway (Devon) is in process of renovation by the National Trust, with the intention that it should be opened to the public next spring (2009). The gardens are already open and well worth a visit, especially in the spring. I knew Agatha and Max very well, having met them in Baghdad in 1952, and having joined them at Nimrud for the remainder of Max's excavations.

I first went to Greenway in the autumn of 1952, and many times in later years with David, who took over the direction of the Nimrud excavations in 1958. I was asked by the Trust to return in order to advise them on the various antiquities that survived there (quite legally since there was an official division of the finds throughout the time that Max worked at Nimrud). I drove to Greenway last August together with Augusta McMahon, who had of course

also worked on Mallowan sites, Chagar Bazar where she was Joint Director from 1999-2002, and Tell Brak where she has been Field Director since 2006. We examined the archaeological objects that had been in the house, and enjoyed a lovely walk around the garden. The Trust wished also to record some of my memories of Agatha at Greenway and at Nimrud for which, unfortunately, there was no time in August. This has just been accomplished in Cambridge, however, and when you visit Greenway you will be able, if you wish, to hear something of Agatha at Nimrud and even see a few pictures of her on the 1950s excavations.

Joan Oates

FORTHCOMING BISI PUBLICATIONS

NEW LIGHT ON NIMRUD - Proceedings of the Nimrud Conference 11th-13th March 2002 Edited by J.E. Curtis, H. McCall, D. Collon and L. al-Gailani Werr (Expected publication date December 2008). Price £40

This book publishes 34 papers by international and Iraqi experts given at a conference on Nimrud at The British Museum in 2002. Excavations at the important Assyrian capital city of Nimrud have continued intermittently since 1845, culminating with the discovery in 1989-90 of the tombs of the Assyrian queens with astonishing quantities of gold jewellery. All aspects of the excavations and the various finds and inscribed material from Nimrud are considered in this volume, with particular attention being paid to the tombs of the queens and their contents. The evidence of inscriptions and the results of paleopathological investigation are brought together to identify the bodies in the tombs. There is much previously unpublished information about the tombs, and the jewellery is fully illustrated in eight colour plates. Finally, the significance of Nimrud as one of the greatest sites in the Ancient Near East is fully assessed.

336 pages, 9 pages colour plates, 8 pages plans & 295 b/w illustrations. Hardback, A4 ISBN 978-0-903472-24-1 Price £40

Ivories from Nimrud VI: Ivories from the North West Palace (1845-1992) by Georgina Herrmann, Stuart Laidlaw with Helena Coffey

The great, ninth century palace which Ashurnasirpal II (883-859) built at his new capital of Kalhu/Nimrud has been excavated over 150 years by various expeditions. Each has been rewarded with remarkable antiquities, including the finest ivories found in the ancient Near East, many of which had been brought to Kalhu by the Assyrian kings. The first ivories were discovered by Austen Henry Layard, followed a century later by Max Mallowan, who found superb ivories in Well NN. Neither Layard nor Mallowan was able to empty Well AJ: this was achieved by the Iraqi Department of Antiquities and Heritage, who retrieved arguably the finest pieces found at Nimrud. Finally, an interesting collection of ivory and bone tubes was found by Muzahim Mahmud, the discoverer of the famous Royal Tombs, in Well 4.

This volume publishes for the first time the majority of the ivories found in the Palace by location. These include superb examples carved in Assyria proper and across the Levant from North Syria to Phoenicia and provide an outstanding illustration of the minor arts of the early first millennium. In addition ivories found in the Central Palace of Tiglath-pileser III and fragmentary pieces found in the domestic contexts of the Town Wall Houses are also included.

In addition to a detailed catalogue, this book also aims to assess the present state of ivory studies, discussing the political situation in the Levant, the excavation of the palace, the history of study, the various style-groups of ivories and their possible time and place of production. This volume is the sixth in the *Ivories from Nimrud* series published by the British School of Archaeology in Iraq (now the British Institute for the Study of Iraq).

Format: 444 pages; 148p prelims & text, 134 pp catalogue & appendices, 138 pp B/W plates & 24 p colour plates. Size 25 x 31 cm

ISBN 978-0-903472-26-5 Price: £75

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BISI/BSAI related Publications

St John Simpson, *Excavations at Tell Abu Dhahir - Ancient Settlement in the Zammar Region: Excavations by the British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq in the Eski Mosul Dam Salvage Project, 1985-86, Volume Two* edited and with a foreword by Warwick Ball

162 pp, 63 figs, 46 pls, concordances, Arabic summary

Archaeopress, Oxford 2007; BAR - S1724; ISBN 978-1-4073-0166-2; £35.00

Tell Abu Dhahir was one of the largest sites in the upper Tigris river valley to be submerged by the Eski Mosul Dam (Saddam Dam) reservoir in 1986. It measured some 350 x 500 metres across and rose to a height of some 20 metres above the flood plain. It was excavated by the author in 1985/86 as part

of the salvage project contribution by the British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq (the field equivalent of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, now renamed British Institute for the Study of Iraq) and directed by Warwick Ball.

Fourteen trenches and soundings were excavated. They offer evidence for most periods from the proto-Hassuna until the Hellenistic period. These results were used alongside preliminary reports on previous excavations by the University of Mosul in 1977-1979 to create a detailed reconstruction of the site's occupation history. It was first occupied in the seventh millennium when it was one of the largest in the region. Although probably abandoned in the Halaf period it was later re-occupied and yielded a deep sequence of Northern Ubaid occupation. This was one of the few sites of this period to be identified in the project and was clearly an important local centre. Excavated remains included part of a cemetery, a cubicle building and architecture with traces of craft activity. The site was later re-occupied in the late fourth and early third millennia (Later Uruk and Ninevite 5 periods) and activities included a pottery kiln located within an extramural zone of refuse pits. The site grew to its maximum size in the early Akkadian period and the pottery appears to be particularly close to level IX at Tell Taya but the settlement appears to have been violently destroyed. This is a pattern shared by a number of other settlements along this stretch of river valley but whether it reflects a single military campaign or wider instability is uncertain. Monumental Old Assyrian architectural remains were found and the site was closely connected by 'hollow way' tracks to major centres of this period on the north Jazira although no proof was found for its earlier textual identification with the settlement of Lada. Later second millennium occupation of the Mitannian or Middle Assyrian periods was followed by a deep Late Assyrian sequence including further evidence for pottery kilns and a monumental terrace wall along the river side. This structure had been previously mis-attributed to the late fourth or early third millennia. An important late Hellenistic building crowned the summit of the site with deep plastered grain silos and other features on the lower slopes. This period was datable to the late second and beginning of the first century BC on the basis of a Rhodian amphora handle (one of two such stamped handles found at the site) and a coin re-identified as having been struck by Antiochus XI Epiphanes Philadelphos. The end of this period coincides with the disintegration of Seleucid rule and the seizure of Adiabene and the region around Nineveh by Tigranes of Armenia. The site was abandoned until the early 20th century when an extensive cemetery grew to cover the summit and a large early modern village covered the slopes. Although every effort was made to avoid marked graves, the main trench was found to correspond with an extensive area of unmarked graves belonging to a segregated childrens' cemetery: up to 29 graves were found here and the sequence illustrates a wide variety of types including simple earth-cut shafts, stone or mudbrick-lined cists and vertical shafts with undercut side-chambers blocked with stones or bricks. A similar range of types have been noted during salvage excavations in the Hamrin basin and attributed there to different ethnic groups. A rapid survey of the abandoned village was made on the understanding that this was a record of the latest level rather than an

anthropological exercise. Detailed sketch plans were made by Susan Gill of a representative selection of four house compounds and the marked architectural differences between these and those in the nearest village of Seh Qubba reinforce the impression of strong diversity of tradition across the valley. Finally, observations made of the processes of abandonment and destruction enable interesting new insights into the interpretation of the archaeological record.

This monograph is the final report on these excavations and is the second of four projected volumes, with the pottery and specialist reports to follow. It includes a full bibliography, concordances of contexts, phases, categories of find and recovery technique, and concludes with an Arabic summary. The plans, sections and photographs are integrated into the text and each period is dealt with in a separate chapter beginning with a synopsis and ending with a detailed discussion of the significance of the site within the context of the Eski Mosul project as a whole. In this respect this volume is more than just a report on one site but also offers a critical overview of over six thousand years of settlement history in this section of upper Tigris river valley.

A final postscript might be added here. The Eski Mosul dam was constructed by a German-Italian engineering consortium and the dam reservoir gradually filled beginning with peak flow in spring 1985 (when sites in the southern portion were first submerged, including Tell Mohammed Arab). Rising reservoir waters stopped work at Tell Abu Dhahir on 10 March 1986 just as the earliest contexts were finally excavated in the main trench. Following peak flow the reservoir levels temporarily dropped and it was possible to briefly revisit several of the sites: some, such as the small nearby site of Siyana Ulya, appeared to have totally disappeared as the rise and fall of the water had completely undermined the deep vertical exposed sections. There was also heavy section retreat within the excavated portions of some other sites such as Tell Mohammed Arab, Tell Jigan and Tell Abu Dhahir. The gloomy assumption which followed was that all traces of these sites would eventually disappear as a result of the strong currents and sediment dumping within the reservoir. However, this view has proved to be over-pessimistic in the case of large sites or those sites where the deep sections were limited to limited areas. Satellite images dated to 2006 and freely accessible via Google Earth clearly showed heavy sedimentation at the northern end of the Eski Mosul dam reservoir. This probably reflects the Tigris shedding part of its suspended sediment load as the river velocity is affected by the still water in the reservoir. Tell Abu Dhahir is clearly visible on these images and the overall shape of the mound and outline of the central excavated area are fundamentally the same as in 1985 although the area of the trenches along the river side has retreated. When and if circumstances finally allow, it would be deeply instructive to return and see exactly what effect twenty years of submergence has had on the site and from this future lessons may be drawn for other dam projects.

BOOK DONATIONS FOR THE BISI/BSAI LIBRARY

The Balawat Gates of Ashurnasirpal II edited by J.E. Curtis and N. Tallis
2008 London: The British Museum Press ISBN 978-0-7141-1166-7

Mathematics in ancient Iraq: a social history by Eleanor Robson 2008
Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press ISBN 978-0-691-09182-2

Iconography without Texts (Warburg Institute Colloquia 13) edited by Paul Taylor, 2008 London – Turin: The Warburg Institute – Nino Aragno Editore
ISBN 978-0-85481-143-4 ISSN 1352-9986 [BISI/BSAI supported the colloquium ‘Iconography without Texts’ held at the Warburg Institute in June 2005 with a BSAI Conference Grant.]

Before the Slave Trade – African World History in Pictures by Robin Walker
2008 London: Printo Trento (U.K.) Ltd ISBN: 978-0-9559695-0-8

The 7th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (**7ICAANE**) will be held in London, April 2010.

The website is now online with details of congress themes, the call for papers, and workshop proposals. Please note that the deadline for the latter is **December 2008**. www.7icaane.org

Further details please contact Miss Helen Taylor, 7ICAANE Administrator,
7th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East,
London, 12th-16th April 2010
e-mail: admin@7icaane.org
website: www.7icaane.org

BISI Year End 2007/2008 Annual Report

Please note a clarification on page 8 concerning ‘Publication Grants’. Dr Rob Carter was awarded a publication grant of £750 for preparation of the Ubaid Conference Publication and the total amount of publication grants during the year was £8,500, as detailed on page 17 of the **BISI Reports and Accounts for The Year Ended 31 March 2008**.

BISI LECTURES & FUTURE EVENTS

11 December 2008 6 p.m. BISI AGM and Lecture by Professor James W. Allan "The shrines of the Shi'i Imams: Najaf, Kerbala and Kazimayn"

Venue: J.Z. Young Lecture Theatre, Anatomy Building, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT

Saturday 7 February 2009 Birkbeck, BISI and EES study day – *From Babylon to Amarna: Ancient Middle Eastern Interactions in the Days of Akhenaten* Organised and chaired by Mariana Giovino and Frans van Koppen, Birkbeck College, Faculty of Lifelong Learning. Venue: Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London. Full details also on the BISI website or to enrol, please ring 0845 601 0174 or email info@bbk.ac.uk

12 March 2009 BISI Lecture "The question of hellenisation: the case of the city of Babylon" by Professor Amélie Kuhrt FBA at the British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5 AH

25 April 2009 Christianity in Iraq VI Seminar Day at the Brunei Gallery, SOAS organised by Dr Erica Hunter (<http://www.easternchristianity.com/>)

17 June 2009 BISI Bonham-Carter Forum and Lecture – (details to be confirmed) at the British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1

NON-BISI OR AFFILIATED CONFERENCES & EVENTS

27 – 29 November 2008 - The Society for Arabian Studies' next biennial conferences *Death, Burial, and the Transition to the Afterlife in Arabia and Adjacent Region* at the British Museum, London. This conference is sponsored in part by a BISI Conference Grant. (<http://www.societyforarabianstudies.org/>)

13 November 2008 – 15 March 2009 - Babylon: Myth and Reality British Museum Babylon Exhibition. (http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/future_exhibitions/babylon.aspx)

11 – 13 December 2008 Culture Wars: Heritage and Armed Conflict in the 21st century at The Fitzwilliam Museum/Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge, UK (<http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/166/>)

8 – 10 January 2009 Durham BANEA - British Association for Near Eastern Archaeology Annual Conference 2009 Networks of Movement in SW Asia (<http://www.dur.ac.uk/banea.2009/>).

27 February 2009 – Babylon Late at the British Museum – lead sponsor the British Iraq Friendship Society.

Please check the **BISI website** for details of events.

BISI GRANTS: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, ACADEMIC VISITORS

The Institute promotes, supports, and undertakes research on Iraq and neighbouring countries. Its academic coverage includes anthropology, archaeology, geography, history, languages, and related disciplines within the arts, humanities, and social sciences from the earliest times until the present. It has over 700 subscribers to its journal *Iraq* and members may also subscribe to the *International Journal of Contemporary Iraqi Studies*. Membership with its benefits is open to all and there are special student rates. For more information about the Institute and its grants see:

<http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq/>

BISI RESEARCH GRANTS: The Institute invites funding applications twice a year for grants in aid of research and for the organisation of academic conferences. All applications and references must be received by **31 October and 31 January annually**. Awards will normally fall within a limit of £4000, though more substantial awards may be made.

Applicants must be residents of the UK or, exceptionally, other individuals whose academic research closely coincides with that of the BISI. Two academic references are required.

Applications are welcomed to support research or conferences on Iraq, neighbouring countries, and the Gulf, in any field of the humanities or social sciences, concerned with any time period from prehistory to the present day. In addition to individual research grant requests, the Institute particularly welcomes funding applications for pilot projects preliminary to larger research projects on Iraq and neighbouring countries. The Institute can offer assistance in drafting a full research proposal to submit jointly to other funding bodies. For more information about this scheme, please contact the BISI Administrator.

BISI DEVELOPMENT GRANTS: Grants are available to support development events and projects, such as lectures, study days, and popular publications that relate to Iraq and neighbouring countries and to the areas of interest covered by BISI. A Development Grant application should normally be for an amount up to £500 but more substantial grants may be made. Applicants need to submit an application form and two references to the BISI Administrator. Applicants must be residents of the UK and preference is given to activities taking place in the UK, or in Iraq or a neighbouring country. The deadlines for applications and references are **15 October and 15 April annually**. In special circumstances BISI will consider urgent applications at other times.

BISI VISITING IRAQI FELLOWS & SCHOLARS GRANTS: BISI offers two or three grants each year to be held in the UK by visiting scholars from Iraq in the fields of archaeology, ancient languages, museum and heritage studies, and other disciplines within the humanities and social sciences. The academic focus must relate to the study of Iraq and priority is given to scholars at an early stage of their careers. Applications are due by **31 October** and **30 April annually**.

All grant requirements, conditions, and application forms, as well as membership forms, are available from: BISI Administrator, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH, United Kingdom and from the BISI website: <http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq/> e-mail: bisi@britac.ac.uk

BISI would also be pleased to assist any scholars from Iraq who may wish to apply for the following Visiting Fellowship from the British Academy.

British Academy/AHRC/ESRC Visiting Fellowships for the Middle East and South Asia 2008-09

The British Academy is pleased to announce a call for applications under this year's round of the joint British Academy/ AHRC/ ESRC Visiting Fellowships for the Middle East and South Asia scheme. The scheme is intended to enable overseas postdoctoral academics to come to the UK for two to six months in order to carry out research in a British institution, in conjunction with a UK academic. A number of places are being reserved specifically for candidates from the Middle East.

Applicants should normally have obtained a PhD after January 2003, or be able to demonstrate equivalent status. Application must be made in tandem with a UK-based academic sponsor whose home institution is willing to host the visit.

The closing date for applications is 12 January 2009, for visits to take place after 1 May 2009. Results of the competition will be announced in late March 2009.

Further information together with application forms and notes of guidance (for both candidates and host institutions) are available from the Academy's website:

<https://www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/vfsame.cfm>

Contact: International Relations, The British Academy
10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH
Tel 020 7969 5235 Fax 020 7969 5414
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VOLUME LXX • 2008

CONTENTS

Editorial

ALISON MILLERMAN: Interpreting the Royal Cemetery of Ur metalwork: A contemporary perspective from the archives of James R. Ogden

JULIAN READE: Real and imagined “Hittite palaces” at Khorsabad and elsewhere

NICHOLAS GILLMANN: Le Bâtiment isolé de Khorsabad: Une nouvelle tentative de reconstitution

ZOLTÁN NIEDERREITER: Le rôle des symboles figurés attribués aux membres de la Cour de Sargon II: Des emblèmes créés par les lettrés du palais au service de l'idéologie royale

DAVIDE NADALI: Assyrian high-relief bricks from Nineveh and the fragments of a royal name

J. NOVOTNY and C. E. WATANABE: After the fall of Babylon: A new look at the presentation scene on Assurbanipal relief BM ME 124945–6

JOACHIM OELSNER: Die Rollsiegel der Sammlung Rich des British Museum

MAGNUS WIDELL: The Sumerian expression *igi-kar₂* revisited

BAHIJAH KH. ISMAIL and J. NICHOLAS POSTGATE: A Middle Assyrian flock-master's archive from Tell Ali

JEFFREY L. COOLEY: “I want to dim the brilliance of *œulpae!*” Mesopotamian celestial divination and the poem of *Erra and Išum*

DAISUKE SHIBATA: A Nimrud manuscript of the fourth tablet of the series *m⁷s p⁷*: CTN IV 170(+188 and a *Kiutu* incantation to the sun god

F. RACHEL MAGDALENE, BRUCE WELLS and CORNELIA WUNSCH: Pre-trial negotiations: The case of the runaway slave in *Dar.* 53

JOHN CURTIS, QAIS HUSSEIN RAHEED, HUGO CLARKE, ABDULAMIR M. AL HAMDANI, ELIZABETH STONE, MARGARETE VAN ESS, PAUL COLLINS and

MEHSIN ALI: An assessment of archaeological sites in June 2008: An Iraqi-British project

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