

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ

(Gertrude Bell Memorial)

31-34 GORDON SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.1



REPORT & ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st MAY, 1969



THE THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD IN THE ROOMS OF THE BRITISH ACADEMY, BURLINGTON HOUSE, PICCADILLY, W.1, ON FRIDAY, 28th NOVEMBER, 1969, AT 5 p.m., TO HEAR MR. DAVID OATES; TO CONSIDER THE ACCOUNTS, THE BALANCE SHEET AND THE REPORTS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE AUDITOR; TO ELECT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL; TO APPOINT AN AUDITOR; AND FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH MAY PROPERLY BE TRANSACTED.

BEFORE THE MEETING THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

DURING the year the School was fortunate to receive as its guests in Iraq two eminent British scholars, Professor Jocelyn Toynbee and Professor Grahame Clark. Professor Toynbee studied the sculpture from Hatra and was very generously permitted by the Directorate General of Antiquities free access to all unpublished material in this unique collection. Professor Clark was also given every facility, both to examine material in the Iraq Museum and to visit prehistoric sites.

Dr. Kathleen Kenyon was nominated to Council by Oxford University this year as their representative: Mr. David Hawkins and Mr. W. G. Lambert were also elected.

Miss Monique Geschier again acted as Secretary-Librarian of the School in Baghdad. The Council regrets that she will not be able to continue in this capacity, in which she has rendered valuable service during the last two sessions.

A School Fellowship was awarded to Mrs. Carolyn Postgate for her studies of the pottery from Tell al Rimah. Among visiting scholars who spent considerable periods in Iraq were Miss Barbara Parker, who studied the seals from Tell al Rimah, Mr. Nicholas Postgate, working on administrative texts from Nimrud in the Iraq Museum, Dr. Roger Moorey, who was engaged on a study of material from Kish, and Professor J. A. Brinkman of the Oriental Institute, Chicago, who was also studying texts in the Iraq Museum. Professor A. K. Grayson of the University of Toronto also stayed in the School while visiting the Iraq Museum and ancient sites in the country. Other visitors included Professor and Mrs. Robert McC. Adams, Professor Robert H. Dyson, Professor Donald P. Hansen and Dr. Vaughn E. Crawford.

The work of preparing the final publication of the Nimrud ivories proceeded under the direction of Mr. J. J. Orchard, assisted by Mr. Michael Haggerty (photographer). Unfortunately no excavation was possible this year either at Tell al Rimah or at Choga Mami, for reasons beyond our control. At the request of the Directorate General of Antiquities the Director spent a month at Tell al Rimah carrying out conservation work on the temple. During this time we were honoured to receive a visit from H. E. the British Ambassador, Vice-President of the School, and Mrs. Trefor Evans.

A second season of excavations was, however, carried out at Tell Taya under the direction of Mr. Julian Reade from December 1968 to February 1969. Despite unusually heavy rain which hampered the work throughout the season, very interesting results were obtained which confirmed the importance of Tell Taya as the largest third millennium site yet explored in Northern Iraq. A report on the first season appeared in *Iraq*, XXX, Pt. 2, p. 234ff, where a general description of the site may be found. Briefly, it consists of a citadel, defended by a circular wall with stone foundations up to three metres high, and surrounded by the ruins of a town that stretch for almost a mile along the ancient road leading from Tell Afar south-east to the Tigris valley. Nine levels of occupation have so far been identified in the citadel, of which the lower four, Levels IX-VI, seem to span the latter half of the third millennium B.C. from the late Early Dynastic to the Ur III period. The dating of the levels is tentative, since it depends partly on comparative material from elsewhere and partly on allowing no more than a reasonable amount of time for the various developments. Correlation of material between the citadel

and the outer town must also remain tentative until the analysis of this season's sherds has been completed; but two major phases, Early Dynastic III and Agade, can now be distinguished in the early history of the site.

This season's work showed that the original foundation of the citadel wall and of the shrine which is the most important building so far exposed inside it, dates from the Early Dynastic period, although the existing plan of the shrine is probably somewhat later. Excavations in the outer town revealed an outer fortification wall with oblong towers at intervals, also of ED date, and a structurally earlier building, some 140 by 110 metres, which might have been a barracks. Another ED house yielded a single inhumation burial and one of the most interesting discoveries of the season, a collective tomb with steep steps leading to two subterranean rooms. The outer room contained large and small storage jars and a small dais in one corner, near which were found three unusual figurines: a naked female with exaggerated hips, with snakes draped around her neck; a bird, perhaps a duck; and an animal, possibly a bull. The inner room contained a large potstand and an incised frit tumbler. The grave-chamber, a circular cave hollowed out of the wall of this room and carefully sealed with stones, contained three skeletons apparently deposited at different times.

In the Agade period the citadel wall was refaced and reinforced, and the town wall was at least partially re-used. Two houses of this date in the outer town were partially explored, one of which had thirty or more rooms around a courtyard 8.5 m. square, and an elaborate drainage system. An inscribed cylinder seal of baked clay, found on the original floor, has provided our first evidence for the use of writing at Taya, an invocation mentioning the Akkadian god Aba. These buildings again had stone footings with a mud-brick superstructure.

The history of Tell Taya, as expanded this year, seems to be as follows. It grew in the E.D. period (level IX) to become a large town with both a citadel and a town-wall. A large proportion of the population was housed outside the walls. The E.D. town was violently destroyed, quite possibly by enemy action. The citadel was reconstructed (level VIII) and promptly sacked again. In the late Agade period (level VII) the town gradually recovered, and some major houses were built inside the old town-wall. This settlement lasted a considerable time; the evidence for a violent end is confined to the citadel. The houses (at least on the citadel, level VI) were again reconstructed and destroyed for the last time, perhaps about 2100 B.C.

We must once again offer our thanks to the Director General of Antiquities, Dr. Isa Salman, and the Inspector General of Excavations, Professor Fuad Safar, and their staffs for the generous aid they have given to the activities of the School.

On behalf of the Council,
M. E. L. MALLOWAN,
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10th October 1969

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