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### BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ (Gertrude Bell Memorial)

20 WILTON STREET, GROSVENOR PLACE, LONDON, S.W.1

Report for the Period 1st January 1948
to 31st May 1949

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD AT CHATHAM HOUSE (10 St. James's Square) ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 12th, 1949, AT 5.30 o'clock, 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.

Tea will be served at 5.

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

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RIGHT HON. L. S. AMERY, C.H.

VICE-PRESIDENT
SIR HENRY MACK, K.C.M.G.

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THE OFFICIAL TRUSTEES OF CHARITABLE FUNDS

HONORARY SECRETARY
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### ELECTED MEMBERS

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\*Member of Executive Committee.

### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

As the School is most active in winter and spring we have decided to present a report and accounts in future for each year beginning on 1st June. The annexed accounts are for the seventeen months ending on 31st May, 1949.

We regret to record the death of Sir George Hill. His advice was of great value to the School in its early years. He has been succeeded as British Academy representative on the Council by Professor Glanville.

Professor Mallowan spent the first five months of 1949 in Iraq as Resident Director of the School. He was preceded in November by Mr. R. W. Hamilton as Secretary-Librarian. A house was taken in Baghdad to accommodate the Director, Secretary, six resident students and the School library (moved from London). With the aid of £4,000 again voted by the House of Commons, the School is now well established in Iraq and can give help to students in archaeological and historical research.

To Naji Beg el Asil (Director of Antiquities) we are indebted for much assistance. He, with H. E. Najib al Rawi (Minister of Education), the British Ambassador and other notables, attended a reception in Baghdad to mark the opening of the School premises.

In the spring of 1949 permission was given for excavations by the School at Nimrud, renewing a connexion with this site which began when Sir Henry Layard first excavated it over a century ago. Nimrud should provide many years' work which will interest not only scholars but a wider public.

The Expedition worked for about six weeks on the site, with a maximum of 150 workmen. Notable discoveries were made. The famous "ivory room" in Ashur Nasir Pal's Palace was re-opened, and a model of an ivory cow, exquisitely carved, was discovered in a patch of soil untouched by Layard's workmen. Two adjacent rooms were also cleared; the inscribed stone-blocks lining the palace walls were once more exposed to public view, and protected against the weather.

In the eastern sector of the mound two-thirds of a palace nearly 150 feet long, apparently founded by Shalmaneser III (859–824 B.C.), was excavated. The walls are chiefly of mud brick, but burnt bricks

are used as a facing, and many of the floors are paved with bricks bearing Shalmaneser's name. The most striking feature is a series of frescoes painted with brilliant black, white, red and cobalt-blue geometric designs. They were in a very delicate condition, but it was found possible to restore some of them to their original appearance.

An even more important discovery was a series of sun-dried clay tablets in Assyrian cuneiform. So far about eighty have been recovered—the first documents of the kind from Nimrud. A preliminary examination shows that some of them are contracts for commodities: payments in gold, silver and copper are recorded. The Assyrian governors named on them, for a period from about 792 to 750 B.C., prove that the palace was continuously occupied for a long time, during which it underwent repairs. Many small objects, including weapons, beads, seals and a fine quality of Assyrian pottery, were found. A beautifully carved chalcedony cylinder seal of the eighth century B.C. was lying in the debris. The eastern sector of the mound seems likely to yield administrative buildings and temples hardly touched by any of the early excavators. A square mile of town and the quay walls once washed by the Tigris remain to be excavated. The Expedition was fortunate in having the help of an Iraqi colleague, Dr. Mahmud el Amin.

Professor Mallowan was appointed Editor of the School journal *Iraq* from 1949. He succeeds Mr. C. J. Gadd, to whom, as Editor since 1944, the School is greatly indebted. *Iraq* is issued twice yearly.

Miss Barbara Parker is now in Baghdad as Secretary-Librarian. Miss M. Munn-Rankin has been appointed to a Fellowship for research on neo-Babylonian markets, and Mr. R. W. Hamilton to a second Fellowship.

The School is again indebted to Mr. Lakeman for auditing the accounts. Having regard to their increased complexity the Council suggest a fee of 25 guineas.

On behalf of the Council,

E. BONHAM-CARTER, Chairman.

E. H. KEELING, Hon. Secretary.

November, 1949.

### SHEET, 31ST MAY, 1949 BALANCE

	£ s. d. £ s. d. 10,648 15 10	7 8 2	308 10 9 4,972 1 6 16 5 6 500 0 0	28 8 11 1,725 17 9 9,558 12 7	£20,207 8 5 (sd.) E. BONHAM-CARTER, Chairman.
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LIABILITIES	As at 31st Dec., 1947	As at 31st Dec., 1947	Less Excess of expenditure over income for the period to 31st May, 1949		

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I certify that the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Accounts have been prepared from the books of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, and are correct and in accordance therewith.

Provincial House, 98-106 Cannon Street, London, E.C.4 26th October, 1949.

(sd.) HAROLD LAKEMAN Chartered Accountant, Hon. Auditor

H. O. MANCE, Hon. Treasurer.

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 17 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MAY, 1949

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