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BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ
(Gertrude Bell Memorial)

REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE

1938

THE SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD
IN THE HALL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, BURLINGTON HOUSE, ON WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 19TH, 1938, AT 5.30 O'CLOCK, TO CONSIDER THE ACCOUNTS,
BALANCE SHEET AND REPORTS OF THE COUNCIL AND AUDITOR ; TO
ELECT MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ; TO APPOINT AN AUDITOR ; AND
FOR ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH MAY PROPERLY BE TRANSACTED.

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*Member of Executive Committee.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL for the year ended 30th June, 1938

Sir Maurice Peterson, K.C.M.G., who was appointed British Ambassador to Iraq last year, has accepted the office of Vice-President of the School.

MR. MALLOWAN'S FOURTH EXPEDITION TO NORTHERN SYRIA

The expedition to the Habur region, under the auspices of the British Museum and the School, has completed its fourth consecutive season of excavations, having worked from March 14th to May 31st. The staff comprised Mr. and Mrs. M. E. I. Mallowan, Col. A. H. Burn C.I.E., O.B.E., Mr. G. M. F. (architect), Mr. R. I. Threlfall, and Mr. J. Christ. They achieved remarkable results, as will be seen from the following report by Mr. Mallowan:—

"The expedition excavated four different areas, which between them covered the period 3100-1500 B.C.

"1. *The Hurrian Houses.* There were three successive levels of mud-brick houses, of dates between about 1800 and 1500 B.C., when Brak was finally abandoned. The houses produced a quantity of 'Hurrian' pottery, with designs in white paint on a black ground, consisting of geometric floral designs and birds. This pottery is related to the ceramic of Atshana in the West, the designers of which were obviously influenced by Cretan art, and to the Tigris ware of Billa and Ashur in the East.

"2. *Private Houses of the Third Dynasty of Ur and the Sargonid Period.* These mud-brick houses were Mesopotamian in plan, the rooms centring about a courtyard. The houses of the Sargonid period were the more spacious, and one of them contained a bath-room with a cement bath. The richest find was of hidden treasure contained in a clay vase buried beneath

a house floor. The contents included a string of gold filigree pendants, gold, silver and carnelian beads, an alabaster bobbin, haematite weights and silver and copper bangles. A similar treasure trove from a house of 2300 B.C. produced a rock-crystal pendant encased in gold, a hoard of copper and silver ear-rings and a lapis-lazuli bull amulet with double bearded heads. Two complete cuneiform tablets and a number of fragments, together with a mass of clay seal impressions, may be expected to give us precise dating evidence and possibly the ancient name of Brak.

"3. *The Akkadian Palace.* The expedition recovered the complete ground-plan of a vast palace, with overall dimensions of about 90 x 90 metres, centring about a great courtyard 40 metres square. Inscribed mud bricks found in the walls give the name of the founder of the Palace, which was built by Naram Sin, fourth King of the Sargonid Dynasty of Akkad, about 2500 B.C. It is possible that this building was a stronghold of the Sargonid dynasty for the control of the Habur, and that from this base the Akkadians were able to penetrate into Eastern Anatolia. The Palace was destroyed by fire and looted, perhaps as the result of a local revolt at the end of the Sargonid period, but it was rebuilt with a few alterations very soon afterwards, under the third dynasty of Ur. The most interesting finds from the Palace are a complete cuneiform tablet, numerous fragments of an inlaid bone gaming-board, with representations of bearded Akkadians, a royal mace-head of basalt, and a number of finely engraved cylinder seals with heraldic designs of lions, stags and heroes.

"4. *The Jamdat Nasr Ziggurat.* The south-west corner of the Akkadian Palace was found to rest on the ruins of a great mud-brick tower which had been built about 3100 B.C., some 500 years before the foundation of the Palace. The *ziggurat* or tower has maximum dimensions of about 60 x 60 metres and still stands about 10 metres high, with an upper stage consisting of a small shrine, the outer walls of which are buttressed with great basalt blocks. The base of the *ziggurat* was found to rest on a specially prepared clay platform, about one metre thick, and was packed with thousands of votive offerings which appear to have been cast into the soil during some ceremony commemorating the foundation of the building.

"This remarkable deposit produced about 40,000 beads, mostly in faience but many in gold, carnelian, rock-crystal and steatite. In addition we recovered from the *ziggurat* a collection of about 200 stamp seals and amulets, many of them beautiful specimens of animal carving, including models of lions, gazelles, bears, hedgehogs, ibex, pigs, hares, frogs, eagles, ducks, fish, sheep and cows. Some of these, but not all, are paralleled at Ur and Uruk. The material used includes serpentine alabaster, lapis lazuli, variegated marble, steatite, limestone, carnelian, shell, bone and faience. Most interesting was a rich collection of about 200 complete alabaster idols, with some thousands of fragments. The Brak idols, which have a considerable variety of form, are surmounted by ritual eyes inlaid with black, red and orange paint. The bodies were flat and the necks elongated; the eyes often surmounted by elaborate headdresses suggesting a hierarchy. Some specimens have double and triple heads, and a few have a smaller image of an idol engraved on the front of the body, suggesting a symbolic mother and child. The most obvious interpretation is that these idols represented an evil eye and were intended to avert other evil eyes from harming the precincts of the building. Whatever the explanation of these curious objects may be, it seems certain that they had a symbolic ritual significance which was an essential part of a *ziggurat* foundation ceremony.

"Most of these finds come from underground chambers which were first cut into about 2300 B.C. by treasure hunters who failed to remove many of the deposits, owing, it would seem, to the difficulty of working underground in a dark and airless atmosphere. In the course of the season the expedition excavated more than forty of these chambers, and it is estimated that at least another forty remain to be dug.

"The share of the finds allotted to the British Museum has now reached England. This collection of antiquities is by far the richest recovered from the Habur during the course of the four archaeological campaigns conducted by the expedition."

It is hoped that Mr. Mallowan will lecture to the School, and show a film of the expedition's work, early in 1939.

SIR LEONARD WOOLLEY'S EXPEDITION TO NORTHERN SYRIA

Sir Leonard Woolley received a grant* from the School for his expedition to excavate the mound at Atchana, which is now shown by the written records found there to have been the site of the ancient city Alalakh. He writes:—

"The Palace, of which the columned entrance was discovered in 1937, was entirely cleared, an annexe lying to the west of it was dug to the same level, and there work was carried down deeper, with the result that the city gate of about the eighteenth century B.C. was brought to light. Further remains of the city's defences were discovered on the other side of the mound, where a small excavation was undertaken at the foot of the dump being formed by the soil removed from our main site.

"The Palace, of which the destruction by fire can now be dated approximately to the early part of the fifteenth century B.C., was well preserved and extremely productive. Its most important contents were tablets, of which nearly three hundred were found, written in the Akkadian language and representing the official archives of the palace. Many of them are of a political or semi-political nature, and their information will be of the more value because they belong to a period for which written evidence from other sources, Egyptian or Mesopotamian, is virtually lacking. A few objects inscribed with Hittite hieroglyphs serve to identify the character of the inhabitants and are the earliest inscriptions of the sort yet known. Some fine ivories illustrate the art of the time, as does a remarkable head of a ram in polished marble. The pottery includes not only good examples of the highly-decorative 'Atchana' ware but a great quantity of wares of the Cypriote type, the occurrence of which at the dates given by our excavations seems to call in question the Cypriote origin of the style. The city gate, which is separated from the sixteenth-century palace by two intermediate levels of construction, is built in the same characteristically Hittite style, and affords grounds for putting the Hittite occupation of North Syria much earlier than has been assumed by recent writers. On this and on other problems raised by our excavations work next season may well give conclusive evidence."

*Paid after the end of the year and therefore not shown in the Accounts.

Sir Leonard Woolley will lecture on these excavations at the annual meeting of the School on October 19th.

FURTHER EXPEDITIONS TO SYRIA

The Executive Committee have granted £800 to Mr. Mallowan and £175 to Sir Leonard Woolley in aid of the further expeditions which they are undertaking during the season 1938-9. Mr. Mallowan has already left England to complete the excavation of the *ziggurat* at Brak, where a great wealth of treasure has still to be recovered. He will also take soundings at two small mounds on the River Balikh, where he made an archaeological survey at the end of last season. Sir Leonard Woolley will return to Atchana in the spring.

THE JOURNAL

The volume of *Iraq* for 1938 includes a *Short Investigation of the Temple at Al-Ubaid*, by P. Delougaz, describing brief excavations on the site of the well-known temple in the Mesopotamian mound discovered by the late H. R. Hall; *The Coinage of Aradus in the Hellenistic Period*, by J. G. Milne; *The Assyrian Kisal as the Origin of the Carat-weight*, by R. Campbell Thompson, the seed from the pod of the *Ceratonia Siliqua* having been used as a 3-grain weight in early Mesopotamian times; *A Mandaean Phylactery*, and a long article on *Woman and Taboo in Iraq*, by Mrs. E. S. Drower; a *Topography of Babylon*, by Dr. Van der Meer, from a cuneiform tablet; an important comparison of weight-standards of ancient Greece and Persia, by A. S. Hemmy; and *An Assyrian Dental Diagnosis*, by B. R. Townend, taken from the cuneiform letter of an Assyrian dentist-physician, and showing a recognition of the far-reaching effect of dental trouble on the human body. Lt.-Col. D. H. Gordon criticizes Mademoiselle Corbiau's views about the age of certain terra-cottas from the Indian Frontier, and George C. Miles writes on the *Coinage of the Kakwayhid Dynasty*. More popularly, C. J. Gadd presents several delightful new sketches made by Mr. Malan during Layard's excavations at Nimroud and Quyunjiq, which have remained hitherto unpublished. Gerald Reitlinger and Seton Lloyd have articles on their explorations west of Mosul, and T. Fish has a specialist

account of several unpublished tablets from Nippur, with a short popular account of the contents of such tablets. It is hoped that the second (autumn) part, containing some of the above articles, will appear in November.

Dr. E. J. Holmyard and Mr. John Walker were appointed a Sub-Committee to advise the Editor.

ACCOUNTS

The balance sheet and statement of revenue and expenditure are appended. The General Fund had an income of £1,297—over £200 more than in the previous year. The sales of *Iraq* to non-members have increased substantially. The expenditure totalled £1,256. The School is indebted to the British Academy for a grant of £50 towards the cost of *Iraq*.

The thanks of the School are again due to Mr. Harold Lakeman, F.C.A., for auditing the accounts free of charge.

It will be seen that the bulk of the income was derived from the Gertrude and Hugh Bell bequests and interest on the School's own investments. The Council appeals for additional donations and annual subscriptions (including subscriptions to the Journal). There are opportunities now for archaeological research in the Middle East which may not recur, and large sums are required for excavations offering promising results. Forms for subscriptions, donations and bequests will be found at pages 13, 14 and 15.

On behalf of the Council,

E. BONHAM-CARTER, *Chairman*.

E. H. KEELING, *Hon. Secretary*.

September, 1938.

BALANCE SHEET, 30th JUNE 1938

LIABILITIES			ENDOWMENT FUND			ASSETS			
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
As at 30th June 1937 ..	9,041	5 10			Cash on deposit with Post Office Savings Bank ..	92	0 7		
Add surplus of income over expenditure for the year to 30th June 1938, per attached Account ..	101	0 0			Investments at cost (market value at 30th June 1938, £9,772 17s. 4d.) ..	9,050	5 3		
			9,142	5 10				9,142	5 10
GENERAL FUND									
As at 30th June 1937 ..	2,286	4 7			Cash in hand ..	6	7		
Add surplus of income over expenditure for the year to 30th June 1938, per attached Account ..	41	6 5			Cash at bank ..	57	16 4		
			2,327	11 0	Cash on deposit with Post Office Savings Bank ..	1,233	10 4		
					Income tax recoverable ..	10	0 0		
					Investments, at cost (market value at 30th June 1938, £1,017 10s. 0d.) ..	1,025	17 9		
								2,327	11 0
			£11,469	16 10				£11,469	16 10

(sd.) E. BONHAM-CARTER, *Chairman.*
H. O. MANCE, *Hon. Treasurer.*

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and accompanying Income and Expenditure Accounts with the books and vouchers, and find them to be correct and in accordance therewith. I have also verified the cash at bank and the investments.

FARLEIGH HOUSE, 33 LAWRENCE LANE, LONDON, E.C.2
24th September, 1938.

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 1938

ENDOWMENT FUND													
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To balance, being surplus of income over expenditure				101	0	0	By donations				101	0	0
				£101	0	0					£101	0	0
GENERAL FUND													
To North Syrian Excavation Fund (Mr. Mallowan's Expedition)—							By subscriptions (including subscriptions to Journal) ..				203	12	5
Grant	750	0	0				„ subscriptions to North Syrian Excavation Fund (Mr. Mallowan's Expedition)	54	13	0			
Subscriptions received <i>per contra</i>	53	13	11	803	13	11	less expenses	19	1		53	13	11
				84	9	10					214	17	1
„ miscellaneous expenses				368	7	3	„ outside sales of Journal ..				50	0	0
„ cost of production and distribution of Journal							„ special donation to Journal						
„ balance, being surplus of income over expenditure for the year ..				41	6	5	„ income received from Trustees of British Museum, arising from Gertrude Bell and Hugh Bell bequests..				311	18	10
							„ interest and dividends :—						
							on investments	435	14	2			
							on bank deposits	28	1	0			
											463	15	2
				£1,297	17	5					£1,297	17	5

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS, 30TH JUNE, 1938

	Book Value			Market Value		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
ENDOWMENT FUND						
£1,000 Army & Navy Investment Trust Co., Ltd., 4%						
Perpetual Registered Debenture Stock	995	2	6	1,025	0	0
£3,750 5% Conversion Stock 1944-64	3,796	19	3	4,275	0	0
£1,365 4s. 8d. India 4½% Stock 1958-68	1,389	5	6	1,576	16	11
£110 London Scottish & American Trust, Ltd., 4%						
Perpetual Debenture Stock	119	11	6	110	11	0
£1,382 10s. 5d. Sheffield Corporation, 3% Redeemable						
Debenture Stock 1956-58	1,372	2	0	1,327	4	5
£250 Third Guardian Trust, Ltd., 4% Redeemable						
Debenture Stock 1963-73	261	7	0	251	5	0
£1,080 United States & South American Investment Trust						
Co., Ltd., 4½% Perpetual Second Debenture Stock	1,115	17	6	1,107	0	0
100 £1 5% First Preference Shares, Thomas W. Ward, Ltd.	—			100	0	0
	£9,050	5	3	£9,772	17	4
GENERAL FUND						
£500 Central Electricity Board, 4½% Stock 1957-82 ..	520	14	6	555	0	0
£500 Metropolitan Trust Co., Ltd., 3½% Debenture Stock	505	3	3	462	10	0
	£1,025	17	9	£1,017	10	0

FORM FOR REMITTING ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, OR DONATION

(For terms of Membership, etc., see page 15)

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or as a donation

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spring number 193
autumn

Signature and description

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Date

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as a subscription to the School, and *the sum of ten shillings as subscription for *Iraq*.

Signature and description.....

Address

.....

.....

Date

This order, when filled in, should be sent to the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, 20 Wilton Street, London, S.W.1, *not to the Bank*.

*Delete this if the *Journal* is not required.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION TO *IRAQ*

Ordinary Members of the School (including libraries, etc.) pay an annual subscription of one guinea or more. A man or woman may become a *Life Member* by a donation of £15.

Both Ordinary and Life Members are entitled to receive the *Journal Iraq* for an annual payment of ten shillings.

The price of single (half-yearly) copies of *Iraq* is eighteen shillings.

Forms for subscription will be found at pages 13 and 14.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I bequeath unto the Honorary Treasurer of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial) the sum of sterling, free of duty, to be applied towards carrying out the objects of the said School.