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BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ

(Gertrude Bell Memorial)

5 NEW SQUARE, LINCOLN'S INN, LONDON, W.C.2



REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MAY, 1958



THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD IN THE ROOMS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, I KENSINGTON GORE, ON WEDNESDAY, 26th NOVEMBER, 1958, AT 5 p.m., TO HEAR PROFESSOR MALLOWAN; 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.

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

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*Member of Executive Committee

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

The British School in Iraq provided a selection of Assyrian antiquities for an exhibition which was held when the new premises of the Institute of Archaeology, 31–34 Gordon Square, were formally declared open by Her Majesty the Queen Mother in April 1958. The objects selected for this occasion included components for the making of glass, ivories, and an inscribed Assyrian wine jar with a capacity of 303 litres; this jar is now on permanent exhibition at the Institute together with a variety of material mostly of scientific interest, which serves the needs of students engaged in the study of Oriental archaeology.

The School's Expedition returned to Iraq in the spring of 1958 for its ninth season at Nimrud and continued excavating "Fort Shalmaneser" in the south-east corner of the outer town. This, the largest building in ancient Calah, covered an area of over twelve acres and comprised four enormous courtyards with ample parade grounds for an Assyrian army corps. In the south-west angle of the largest of these courts the Expedition discovered the dismantled throne base of Shalmaneser III which recorded the foundation of the building in the fifteenth year of his reign, 844 B.C. Fragmentary cylinders of Esarhaddon referred to repairs on the gates and there was other evidence to show that the structure had been refurbished in the seventh century B.C. and finally sacked and burnt, probably in the year 612 B.C.

Fort Shalmaneser is a unique contribution to ancient Assyrian military architecture, for although much was discovered by the Germans at Assur on the nature of mural defences, nowhere has any complete fortress yet come to light. The building at Calah with its great gates, tarmac way for the chariots, its combination of barracks and bathrooms, residence for the king and his high officers, magazines and defensive towers will, when its plan is completed, be of fundamental importance for our understanding of the organisation of an Assyrian military depot. The name read as *ekal mashirti* on associated documents closely conforms with the archaeological evidence that it was an ancient storehouse, treasury and armoury.

The quantity and variety of objects discovered in the course of the season fulfilled the high expectations with which we had come away in 1957. Some five hundred pieces of ivory were recorded in the Expedition catalogue, and although for the most part burnt and mutilated, many more or less complete pieces of exquisite carving survived. These had formerly been component parts of all kinds of palace furniture; they were carved with mythological, religious and purely ornamental scenes, some in the Assyrian, others in the Phoenician and North Syrian styles. It seems that originally most of the figures in relief had been overlaid with gold, many traces of

which remain as well as of the bitumen adhesive. The enemy who destroyed Calah tore off the gold, then broke up the ivories which were piled into heaps and set alight in bonfires. After 612 B.C. when there was a partial reoccupation of the building these unwanted heaps of rubbish were shovelled away into abandoned magazines to make room for newcomers. There are still chambers in the building eight feet deep in fragments, and it is expected that two more years will be required for the final clearance.

The Expedition was this year supported by generous contributions from the Iraq Petroleum Company; the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; the Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery; the Metropolitan Museum, New York; the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto; the Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire, Brussels; the

University of Cambridge; the University of Durham.

Miss Jacquetta Hawkes joined the Expedition towards the end of April as archaeological correspondent for *The Observer* and described

the excavations in the issue of May 25th.

Those who took part in the excavation included the Director and Mrs. Mallowan; Mr. David Oates was Field Director and organised all the ground operations; Mrs. David Oates; Professor J. Laessøe; Miss Barbara Parker; Mr. David Stronach; Dr. Richard Adrian; Mr. David Murray Threipland; Mr. Carroll Wales of the Byzantine Institute of America, who treated the ivories in the field with great skill; Sayid Tarik el Madhlum, an old friend and colleague, represented the Iraq Antiquities Department for the third year in succession.

Our warmest thanks are again due to Dr. Naji el Asil, the Director-General of the Department; to Sayid Taha Baqir, the Assistant-Director; to Sayid Fuad Safar and to the entire Museum staff for their cordial help and kindness.

The current number of *Iraq* is entirely devoted to a publication by D. J. Wiseman of the famous Treaty Tablet of Esarhaddon, discovered at Nimrud in 1955; one of the most important and

longest documents yet known from Calah.

This year the Treasury agreed to increase the annual grant to the School in order to meet rising costs and to prevent serious curtailment of its work. The announcement that the grant would be for the sum of £5,500 was made through the British Academy, which is the co-ordinating body for the British School of Archaeology in Iraq and collateral institutions.

On behalf of the Council,

J. M. TROUTBECK, Chairman. KEVIN O'C. HAYES, Hon. Secretary. M. E. L. MALLOWAN, Director.

July, 1958.

I	BALANCE SHEET	, 31st MAY, 1958					
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	£27,737 19 10		£27,737 19 10				
(sd.) J. M. TROUTBECK, Chairman. H. O. MANCE, Hon. Treasurer. I have prepared the Balance Sheet set out above and the accompanying Income and Expenditure Accounts from the Books, Vouchers and Records of the School and I have received all the information and explanations I have required. In my opinion and to the best of my knowledge and belief, the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year to 31st May, 1958, correctly show the result of the transactions for that year and the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of the School's affairs as at that date. PROVINCIAL HOUSE, 98-106 CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.4 HAROLD LAKEMAN, Chartered Accountant, Auditor.							
as at that date.		HAROLD LAK	EMAN,				
as at that date. Provincial House, 98-106 Cannon Street, 26th September, 1958.	London, e.c.4	HAROLD LAK	EMAN, ccountant, Auditor.				
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