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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, 1960

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL WILL BE HELD IN THE ROOMS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, 1 KENSINGTON GORE, ON MONDAY, 7th NOVEMBER, 1960, AT 8 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

We record with deep regret the death of Sir Leonard Woolley, whose distinguished services to archaeology were described in a two-column obituary notice which appeared in *The Times* on Monday, 22nd February of this year. A special memorial number of *Iraq*, Vol. XXII, is due to appear in the autumn and will be wholly devoted to Woolley's work at Ur. The articles have been written by scholars from many different countries.

An appeal has been issued to establish a Memorial Fund which will be used to assist young students in the study of archaeology in Iraq and neighbouring countries. Subscribers have also contributed to a commemorative dish made by the Worcester Royal Porcelain Company. This fine piece of craftsmanship will be exhibited in the rooms of the Royal Geographical Society at a joint meeting of the School and the R.G.S. on 7th November, 1960.

This year the tenth expedition to Nimrud took the field under the direction of Mr. David Oates, and once more the results were of the greatest interest. The season lasted from 2nd March to 5th May, 1960. Members of the expedition included Miss Barbara Parker, D. B. Stronach, Professor J. Laessøe, H. S. Smith, J. J. Orchard, D. H. French and Miss Ann Searight, with Sayyid Selim al Jelili as the representative of the Directorate-General of Antiquities. Work was continued for the third season in Fort Shalmaneser, the Assyrian army headquarters and storehouse in the south-east corner of the outer town. We have now almost completed the plan of the south end of the building, which housed the suites of the king and his principal officers, with their retainers; the layout of this quarter reflected three social grades among its occupants, with correspondingly restricted access to the various suites and courtyards. Important evidence bearing on the final destruction of Fort Shalmaneser was recovered, which suggests that it, and by implication the whole city, was captured on two occasions separated by a brief interval, probably in 614 and 612 B.C. Excavations in the buildings on two sides of the north-east, outer courtyard of the fortress, revealed barrack and store-rooms, one of which contained furniture inlaid with shell, bronze and ivory, including the components and decoration of a couch, which will be reconstructed in the Iraq Museum. In a niche in another room in the same courtyard six ivory statuettes, about 6 inches high and finely carved in the round, were discovered; these depicted Nubian and Syrian tribute-bearers, each bearing one animal across his shoulders and leading another. From another store-room which we had begun digging in a previous season, some 150 pieces, component parts of ivory inlaid furniture, were lifted and treated. These were for the

most part plaques carved in relief, including fine examples of *champ-levé* work inlaid with blue and red frit. It is clear that both here and elsewhere in the fortress there is still much to be found.

After the work at Nimrud had been completed, Mr. D. B. Stronach conducted a small sounding at the site of Ras al 'Amiya, 5 miles north of Kish. This is a small prehistoric settlement which was found beneath the alluvium in the course of trenching for canals. The original village probably occupied an area of not more than 7 acres and consisted of mud (pisé) houses within which were bread ovens and kilns. These primitive dwellings were roughly rectangular with some rooms partly circular or elliptical in plan. They contained a normal series of agricultural implements and a good collection of prehistoric painted pottery of the Qalat Hajj Mohammed ware. This series of pots, together with a number of 'Ubaid types found in a succession of four building levels, is an important addition to the archaeology of the period. Many animal bones were found; chaff embedded in bitumen will be submitted for C<sub>14</sub> examination, although it is doubtful if the quantity recovered will be sufficient for establishing a chronology. Messrs J. J. Orchard, D. H. French, and Dr. Eva Strommenger of the German Archaeological Institute also assisted in these soundings, as well as the Iraqi representative Sayyid Burkhan.

Once again the School has good reason to be grateful for the generous co-operation of the Iraq Antiquities Department which did everything in its power to further research in Iraq. Our cordial thanks are due to Sayyid Taha Baqir, the Director-General of Antiquities, and all his staff in the Iraq Museum, Baghdad; also to Sayyid Behnam el Suf in Mosul.

It has unfortunately been necessary to raise the price of *Iraq*. Subscribers have been advised of details. The price of the current volume is now £2 5s. od. and is still well below cost of production.

On behalf of the Council,

J. M. TROUTBECK,  
Chairman.

KEVIN O'C. HAYES,  
Hon. Secretary.

M. E. L. MALLOWAN,  
Director.

July, 1960.

