

# IRAQ

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# THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ

(GERTRUDE BELL MEMORIAL)

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*IRAQ* is a refereed journal devoted to studies of the history, art, archaeology, religion, economic and social life of Iraq, and to a lesser degree of the neighbouring countries where they relate to it, from the earliest times down to about AD 1700. Texts concerning these subjects, with translations and comments, will be considered; exclusively philological articles will not be accepted. Copyright is held by the British School of Archaeology in Iraq.

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Abbreviations follow those currently accepted in the journals *Orientalia* and *Archiv für Orientforschung*.

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## In Memoriam

### RABI'A MAHMUD SAMI AL-QAISI 1941–2003



As this editorial was going to press, we heard the very sad news of the death on 3 November of Dr Rabi'a al-Qaisi. Dr Rabi'a was on his way to Paris for the opening, on 5 November, of the new Hammurabi Gallery in the Louvre when the car he was travelling in was involved in an accident in Jordan. He was accompanied by Dr Ismail Hijara, who was unhurt, and by Ms Raya Abdul Razzak, who suffered some injuries; we send her our best wishes for a swift recovery.

Dr Rabi'a had served with the Antiquities Service for over thirty years, and among the sites he excavated was Tell es-Sawwan. He was Director of Excavations, had been acting Director General of Antiquities, and had recently been appointed President of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage. He was a good and experienced colleague, and a very generous, dependable and genuine person. Dr Rabi'a had attended the Nimrud conference in London in March 2002 and was present at the *Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale* in London in July this year. This was the last time most of us saw him. We extend our condolences to his family and to our Iraqi colleagues.

This sad news was received in the Iraq Museum on 4 November, on the very day the staff were celebrating the safe return of the Basetki statue base and the Nimrud brazier, which had been looted from the Iraq Museum galleries in April.

We dedicate this volume of *Iraq* to Dr Rabi'a al-Qaisi's memory.\*

\* We thank Dr Barbara A. Porter for allowing us to reproduce the photograph she took at a dinner party in London on 10 July 2003, during the *Rencontre*.