



PLATE I

PAINTED LIMESTONE
STATUE, LIFE-SIZE, OF
PRINCESS NEFERT,
FOUND IN ONE
OF THE MASTABAS
NEAR THE MEYDUM
PYRAMID (See p. 11)

*Service des Antiquités,
Cairo*

facing p. 1

Antiquity

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Editorial Notes

DR C. L. WOOLLEY'S article in the present issue will serve to call attention to an archaeological scandal. Ever since he first discovered an important gold object in 1927 the Arabic Press of Iraq, by innuendo and direct statements, has persuaded people in Baghdad and elsewhere that their country, with the connivance of the Director of Antiquities, was being robbed of its antiquities by excavators. This propaganda has been generally accepted by officials who ought to know much better; and men in high political positions in Iraq have been heard to accuse the British of retaining gold objects which were actually on exhibition in the Baghdad Museum.



During the years 1932–1933 a personal campaign has been conducted against the present Director of Antiquities and the staffs of Foreign Expeditions for unworthy, probably personal, motives. This campaign has been ignored as it deserves to be; but it is now time that the Administration of Antiquities, set up by Miss Gertrude Bell under the British Mandate, and the conduct of the recent Directors of Antiquities, should be justified. Dr Woolley's statement will convince

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archaeologists that the excavations at Ur have enriched the Iraqi nation by securing for it, with all the aid that modern science can afford, a very valuable collection of antiquities, more than equal to the collections from Ur in the British Museum and the University Museum of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia put together.



The sooner political propaganda against archaeological work by foreigners in Iraq is dropped, the sooner scholars will be able to feel some confidence in the measures at present being taken in that country. The present trend of events can only lead disinterested observers to believe that irreparable harm is being done by a policy which discourages and penalizes scientific expeditions without providing efficient means to prevent wholesale spoliation and destruction of ancient sites. The threat of various new laws has been disturbing. If a new law is introduced next year on the lines apparently proposed, the Iraq Government will have placed itself in the position of stopping work by others, while itself unable to prosecute research.



With the publication of this number we welcome the accession of a group of new readers in the United States of America. We welcome them most heartily. Already for several decades American and British institutions and individuals have been engaged upon joint undertakings throughout the world, particularly in the East. Ur was excavated by just such a joint expedition, and several others are still in the field. Such cooperation is characteristic of all live science, but the effects are often limited, of necessity, to the few persons directly concerned.



It has been one of the tasks of ANTIQUITY to interpret to a wider public the meaning of the epoch-making discoveries so made. For without the cooperation of the public, archaeology as it exists today could not continue—a fact liable to be forgotten by specialists when in full cry! It is obviously therefore in the interests of all concerned that some one should broadcast the chief items of news in language as

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plain as the subject permits. We have attempted to do this in the past and we shall continue to do so, encouraged by the knowledge that our efforts are appreciated in at least two Continents. There will of course be no change of policy where none is needed ; we shall merely try and do better what we have hitherto been doing, and perhaps cast our nets even more widely than before, particularly in eastern waters.



Amongst undertakings which (so far as staff is concerned) may well be called international, are the various expeditions of the Oriental Institute of Chicago University, which is doing magnificent work throughout the whole of the Middle East, under the direction and personal inspiration of Dr J. H. Breasted.* The major results obtained are already fairly well known, and as publication proceeds they will become even better known. Amongst the recent publications of the Institute are some (vols. x, 1929 ; xvii, 1933 ; xviii, 1934) which deal with the late Tertiary and Quaternary Deposits of Egypt, with special reference to the antiquity of man. Dr K. S. Sandford has been studying these deposits since 1926, when Dr Breasted provided the organization required to ensure that a comprehensive survey, extending over a period of years, should be carried out. Details of the work done between Cairo and the Second Cataract are now available, and considerable progress has been made between Dongola and Berber. Palaeolithic implements have been found in geologically dated strata, and there is much evidence of progressive desiccation. Further volumes in the series will be awaited with interest.



We conclude with a word to our 'constant readers'. We are engaging in a publicity campaign to secure fresh subscribers, for even after eight years of effort there must remain quite a few people who are not yet aware of the existence of ANTIQUITY. We are therefore posting to several thousand members of various Societies in this country and abroad leaflets similar to those by which ANTIQUITY was established.

* The value of the work of The Oriental Institute generally is also emphasized by the Review on page 109.

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It is quite certain that some of those who already subscribe will receive leaflets, for the process of elimination of names to avoid this is impossible, and indeed the labour would be out of all proportion to the results. We therefore ask them, if they receive leaflets, to send them to friends who may be interested and thereby help the campaign, or to ignore them.



Again, at the risk of being thought importunate, we ask the attention of those who may be concerned to the notice printed below.

The SUBSCRIPTION to ANTIQUITY for 1935 is now DUE. We would remind our Subscribers of the form and envelope inserted in the December number for the purpose of remitting payments. *An early response will be much appreciated as this will save avoidable trouble in having to send out direct reminders.*

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