

EDITORIAL

The School has received with great regret the news of the death, on 28th February 1984, of Dr. Taha Baqir, the excavator of Aqar Quf and Tell Harmal.

We also regret to hear of the death, in 1983, of Miss Marjorie Maitland Howard, who supervised the School's work at Balawat in 1956 and who subsequently prepared detailed drawings of the Balawat Gates.

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Last year the School accepted with sadness the resignation of Lord Trevelyan from the Presidency on the grounds of ill-health. At the Annual General Meeting on 1st December 1983, the Council elected Lady Mallowan to serve as President, thus renewing our links with a famous name. We are delighted that she has agreed to serve the School in this new capacity.

At the same meeting Dr. Michael Roaf gave a lecture, entitled "Rescue Excavations at Eski Mosul", in which he presented for the first time the developing results from the area of this new salvage project.

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At the time of writing, the excavations of the British Archaeological Expedition are still progressing at Tell Mohammed 'Arab in the Eski Mosul area, under the Director, Dr. Michael Roaf. A team from Edinburgh University, under Dr. Trevor Watkins, is also at present operating in the area at the predominantly Halaf site of Kharabeh Shattani. Professor David Oates is working at Tell Brak.

Dr. John Curtis of the British Museum, assisted by Dr. Dominique Collon, recently completed an eight-week season mainly at Khirbet Qasrij near Eski Mosul where they excavated an exceptionally interesting industrial area dating from the post-Assyrian period. In the Autumn of 1983 Mr. R. G. Killick, in collaboration with Dr. H. Gasche, excavated and surveyed the ruins of Habl es-Sakhr, and recovered evidence establishing that this is indeed a part of the "Median Wall" of Nebuchadnezzar II.

In Baghdad the Fellowship was held again by Dr. Geoffrey Summers, now accompanied by his wife Françoise. Other visitors have included Dr. Ellen MacAdam (grant-holder) to work on Pre-Pottery Neolithic figurines in the Iraq Museum; Professors T. Cuyler Young, Jr. (Royal Ontario Museum) and A. K. Grayson (University of Toronto) to select a site for a Canadian excavation and to plan the establishment of a Canadian Archaeological Expedition.

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Miss G. C. Talbot recently gave up her position as Secretary with responsibility for publications. We are very grateful for her many years of devoted service to the School. Her duties have been undertaken by Dr. Dominique Collon.

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The School is pleased to announce the publication of *The Middle Babylonian Legal and Economic Texts from Ur* by O. R. Gurney. An advertisement and order form will be found in this volume.