

EDITORIAL

THE School takes much pleasure in congratulating its Chairman, Professor M. E. L. Mallowan, who has been created a Knight Bachelor for services to archaeology. This news was published in the Queen's Birthday Honours List on June 8th, 1968.

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The Director, Mr. David Oates, reports here on the fourth season of excavations at Tell al Rimah where further important architectural and epigraphical discoveries have been made. The beautifully carved, inscribed stela of Adad-nirari III found standing in the Late Assyrian Temple relates to the history of Assyria at a time when Sammuramat and the independent governor Nergal-ereš were dominating figures. The text published here by Miss Stephanie Page contains the earliest reference in Assyrian texts to Samaria and king J(eh)oash.

This part of the Journal has been expanded in order that the copies and catalogue of the Middle Assyrian cuneiform texts found at Tell Rimah in 1964–1966 might be included. The tablets provide welcome additions to information on the economy of Assyria which for this period has been mainly based on documents from Aššur and Šibaniba (Tell Billa).

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The ancient name of Tell Rimah still remains in doubt but may well be *Karanā*. Both *Karanā* and *Qatarā* are frequently mentioned in texts from the Middle Assyrian and Old Babylonian levels but the latter may well refer to a neighbouring settlement. The discovery during the current season's work of an inscription naming a king of *Razamā* may indicate that this was the city's name in the Old Babylonian period unless the text had been brought to Tell Rimah from an adjacent site. Both the Adad-nirari stela and tablets imply that the name of the site was certainly *Zimaḥu/i* in Neo-Assyrian times.

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In 1967 the British School of Archaeology in Iraq sponsored excavations at the early historic site of Tell Taya, a few miles to the north-east of Tell Rimah. The architecture and newly discovered pottery sequences published here will be basic for an understanding of other sites in the neighbourhood and beyond

it. Links with Assyria appear stronger than with the more westerly sites in the Khabur and neighbouring districts.

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On July 2nd, 1968, the seventy-fifth birthday of Professor C. J. Gadd, C.B.E., D.Litt., F.B.A., who edited this Journal from 1941–1948, many of his friends presented articles in his honour which will be published in the following volume of *Iraq*.

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The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, reports that it has purchased glass vessels of Roman date from Syria and Palestine published by Dr. D. B. Harden in *Iraq* 11 (1949), Plate XLIX, 4 and pp. 153 ff. when they were in the possession of Miss F. K. West. They now bear the accession numbers 1968.376 (Harden, Fig. 2.1), 1968.377 (Harden, Fig. 2.2) and 1968.378 (Harden, Fig. 2.3).