

EDITORIAL

Following the death of our former President, Lady Mallowan, recorded in the last volume of this journal, Professor Donald Wiseman was appointed President at our Annual General Meeting on 1 December 1993. Professor Wiseman was, for many years, the School's Chairman and editor of *Iraq*.

At the Council Meeting on 23 June 1994, Sir Stephen Egerton was elected Vice-President. His knowledge of Iraq and advice on the political situation have benefited the School over the years. This Spring Sir Stephen was able to visit the Saar excavations which the School supports.

Our congratulations go to Dr Michael Roaf, a former Director of the School, who has been appointed professor in Munich University, and to Mr David Hawkins and Mr Nicholas Postagat who have been appointed professors in London and Cambridge respectively and have both become Fellows of the British Academy. Professor Hawkins, who normally edits this journal, has been on sabbatical this year.

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The life and work of Lady Mallowan (Barbara Parker) were celebrated on 22 June 1994 in a memorial lecture co-hosted by the School and the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. Madam Agnès Spycket, a close friend of Lady Mallowan's for many years, was invited to come from Paris to give the lecture. She chose as her topic "From Nimrud to Susa: 'Le carnaval des animaux'". The lecture was followed by a dinner. An appreciation of Lady Mallowan's work, written by two members of the School, is to appear in the next issue of the *Bulletin of the Institute of Archaeology*.

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The School wishes to record with sorrow the death, on 24 March 1994 in her eighty-second year, of Professor Edith Porada, doyenne of American Ancient Near Eastern studies, the world's leading authority on cylinder seals, a long-time supporter of our work and a subscriber to our journal.

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Unfortunately it has been impossible for the School to resume work in Iraq, and School staff and officers have been unable even to visit Baghdad, following a firm recommendation from the British Academy acting on Foreign Office advice. Intermittent and indirect contact with Baghdad has been maintained through the good offices of third parties who report that the School premises, including the library, remain unharmed despite deteriorating conditions in Baghdad. Our Chairman was able to meet Dr Mu'ayyad Sa'id Damerji on the occasion of the *Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale* in Berlin in July 1994.

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As excavations in Iraq are not possible at present, the School has continued to support work in neighbouring countries, according to the terms of our original charter. Our main excavations are now at Tell Brak in Syria where our Director, Dr Roger Matthews, as Field Director, has completed a first, and very successful season which is reported in this journal. In the Spring he visited the London-Bahrain excavations at Saar, which are also supported by the School, and in the Autumn he was again Field Director at Çatal Höyük in Turkey. Dr Matthews has also continued work on his *Prehistory of Mesopotamia* and has given lectures and seminars in Cambridge and Bahrain.

Our Secretary-Librarian, Miss Helen McDonald, has continued to work on Nimrud material and joined the excavations at Brak in the Spring.

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This year grants have been awarded to Mrs Bronwen Campbell for work on Neolithic stone bowls; to Dr Andrew George to enable him to continue his collaboration with Dr Farouk Al-Rawi on texts recently excavated at Sippar, which has resulted in two articles in this volume; to Dr Julian Henderson for rescue work on sites – including a glass workshop – threatened by urban expansion

at Raqqa; to Mr Andrew Jamieson for study of Neo-Assyrian pottery from Til Barsip and other comparative material; and to Mr Aidan O'Lynn to enable him to visit museums in Syria.

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In 1993, in an attempt to cut costs and remain within budget, the publication of this journal was transferred to another firm. Unfortunately, this proved unsatisfactory and resulted in the very late publication of *Iraq LV* (1993), for which we apologise to our subscribers. We have therefore changed printers yet again and wish to record our thanks to the British Academy for their advice and active support. The sale of volumes of *Iraq I–L* are now handled by Swets and details will be found on the inside front cover of the journal.

The sale of our publications (other than the journal, *Lost Heritage* and *Iraq Archaeological Reports*) has been transferred to Oxbow Books, through whom orders should now be placed. Details will be found on the back cover.

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The Annual General Meeting was held on 1 December 1993 and Dr Joan Oates gave a lecture entitled "Northern light on the origins of civilization: Recent 4th millennium excavations at Tell Brak." An article by Dr Oates and our Chairman, summarizing and updating the results of their many years of work at Tell Brak, will be found in this volume.

The Bonham Carter Lecture was delivered after the Council Meeting on 23 June 1994 by Professor David Stronach, who spoke on "Excavations at Nineveh 1987–1990." The text of the 1993 Bonham Carter Lecture, by Stephanie Dalley, is published here.