



## SIR MAX MALLOWAN, kt.

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The British School of Archaeology in Iraq has the sad duty of recording the death of its President on 19th August, 1978. Only two years ago the School awarded him its first Gertrude Bell Memorial Gold Medal for distinguished services to Mesopotamian archaeology, in the knowledge that it is not easy to separate the reputation of the School from the driving force and achievement of the one who for more than forty years has been the prime mover in its affairs. In 1974 Volume XXXVI of this Journal was dedicated to him in honour of his seventieth birthday. Many of his friends and colleagues paid tribute there to his rôle as the leading and influential British scholar and teacher of the archaeology of the ancient Near East. The Proem of that volume of *Iraq*, together with Sir Max's autobiography, *Mallowan's Memoirs* (1977), furnish details of his active life. While others will record and assess his many contributions to his chosen field of study, this immediate tribute to his memory notes that his passing marks the end of a major and significant phase both of archaeological work and of the history of the School itself. He brought vision and vigour to his tenure of office as Director, Editor, Chairman and President. He was unsparing in his efforts to further the work of the School and support for it.

Max Mallowan's name will always be associated in the first place with Iraq and especially with the exploration of Ur (1925–1930); Nineveh (1931–2); Arpachiyah (1933); Chagar Bazar (1934–6); Tell Brak and the Balikh Valley (1937–8); and, after a distinguished war career partly spent in Arab lands where he felt much at home, of Nimrud (1948–1958). In the post-war years as expedition leader he sought out younger scholars to follow him in winning an ever wider and deeper understanding of the early civilizations by the use of every source available. He continually urged, sometimes harried, but always encouraged them to follow his example in making the results of their researches known widely and without delay. If this sometimes led to premature writing and the need for subsequent reinterpretation, he preferred this as less inhibiting to true scholarship than any undue delay or failure to publish at all, with its consequent loss of knowledge on which others might build. His own writing reflected his character—clear, constructive and no nonsense. Indeed his own archaeological reports were his first concern and the mainstay of the School's journal over many years. He showed an openness to use and develop new methods and techniques whether in excavation or conservation. The result is that today many scholars holding positions of responsibility world-wide owe much to this *doyen* of Mesopotamian studies in this country.

To the end of his life he devoted himself to writing, being especially interested in the history of art and architecture and much preoccupied with the publication of the series of Nimrud ivories, many of which he had himself unearthed. His large volumes *Nimrud and its Remains* (1966) were made possible by the respite from teaching and field work afforded by his appointment in 1961 as Fellow of All Souls, Oxford. They

remind us that Mallowan followed in the steps of Sir Henry Layard. Like him Mallowan always exhibited a pioneering spirit which embraced the whole of the ancient Near East and ever needed fresh objectives for his statesmanship to pursue. Reinforced by his long experience in Iraq he turned with equal energy to founding the British Institute of Persian Studies of which he was the first President from its inception in 1961. In that year he served as Vice-President of the British Academy, of which he had been a Fellow since 1954. He was long active also in the affairs of the Egyptian Exploration Society, but never lost his detailed interest in the Iraq School.

The death of his wife, Dame Agatha Mallowan, was a great blow to him as to the School, for "Max and Agatha" were inseparable in their interest in, and work for, the School at home and abroad. A tribute to their truly joint efforts appeared in *Iraq XXXVIII*. To Lady Barbara Mallowan we offer our sympathy, all the more heart-felt since she herself shared in many of the triumphs and toils of Sir Max's life since Nimrud days.

The best tribute to Sir Max—the one he himself would wish—is that the work of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq should continue with undiminished zeal in the field of excavation and publication.

D. J. W.