

EDITORIAL

THE thirty-second Annual General Meeting of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq will be held on Wednesday, November 17th, 1965 at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, London. The President, Lord Salter, will take the chair. Mr. David Oates, Director of the School's current Expedition will give an illustrated lecture on the 1965 Season of work at Tell Rimah.

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This spring saw the second season of excavation at Tell Rimah in co-operation with the University Museum, Philadelphia. Additions were made to the plan of the Old Assyrian temple discovered in 1964, notably a ziggurat adjoining the shrine on the west side. The external façades of the ziggurat and the temple are decorated with elaborate patterns of engaged half columns.

Finds included objects of glass and glazed frit, among which was a fine female mask of frit with inlaid eyes, hair, and jewellery dated to the Middle Assyrian period. Approximately one hundred economic texts and one letter from the reign of Shalmaneser I were also discovered.

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The detailed study of the tablets discovered at Nimrud continues to be rewarding and although much important material has now been published there still remain further texts to be examined. Dr. H. W. F. Saggs publishes further Assyrian letters found in the Ziggurat Temple area there, while Mr. A. R. Millard discusses the type of Assyrian royal seal of which copies found at Nimrud stimulated an earlier discussion by Professor A. J. Sachs in volume XV of this Journal.

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Mr. W. G. Lambert's article on a recently published text of Nebuchadnezzar II reminds us how much new information may yet come to light on the literary, legal, social and religious practices of the Chaldaean dynasty. This period,

still too little known, is of great importance for an understanding of imperial achievement during the decline of the great Assyrian and Babylonian empires.

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Trade links between ancient Iraq and the west are further illustrated by two articles in this part of the Journal. Mrs. J. Y. Canby discusses the evidence for a travelling jeweller working to the requirements of local customers in western Anatolia and providing them with Babylonian based designs. Mr. P. R. S. Moorey of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, describes an Assyrian *paṣuṣu*-demon figure bearing an Aramaic inscription, said to have been found in the Egyptian Delta.