

EDITORIAL

British archeology in Iraq has a long and honoured history. The passing of Lionel Smith whose obituary written by his friend Mr. C. J. Edmonds, our Vice-President, appears above, was a founder member and a contemporary of Gertrude Bell in Baghdad. At the same time the School records with regret the death of two former members of its Council, Lady Drower and Sir Francis Humphrys.

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The School's work in Iraq continues with success. Dr. Julian Reade has recently completed a third season's work at Tell Taya where he discovered interesting remains, as well as an extensive ground plan of the third millennium B.C. city. Evidence of occupation of the town in the Islamic, Assyrian and Old Babylonian eras as well as of its Early Dynastic foundations, together with two inscribed tablets of the Old Babylonian period, were also discovered.

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The Director plans further excavations at Umm Dabaghiyah this spring. Her lecture on the work at this site was appreciated by a well attended Annual General Meeting of the School held at the British Academy on 13th October, 1972. At that meeting the retirement of Mr. Robert Hamilton from the Council was received with much regret. His work and support of the School over many years, including field work in Nineveh and Nimrud and at home in Oxford, has been influential and much appreciated. Mr. P. R. S. Moorey of the Ashmolean Museum was elected to the Council in place of Mr. Hamilton.

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During a visit to Iraq in November the Chairman of the School, Professor D. J. Wiseman, stayed for a few days at the excavations at Tell Taya. He was also the guest of the American Expedition at El Hibba. In the following month, Miss Barbara Parker, Lecturer in Mesopotamian Archaeology, University of London, visited the School to work on the seals from Tell al Rimah. She also visited the University of Chicago Expedition currently working at Nippur, and, with the Assistant Director, examined the site of Abu Salabikh, where the latter hopes to carry out a detailed surface survey this spring.

Mr. Peter Farries, who has previously taken part in the excavations at Manda under the auspices of the British Institute of History and Archaeology in East Africa, at Siraf with the British Institute of Persian Studies, and at Umm Dabaghiyah, has been elected to a Fellowship of the School for 1972/73. His field of research is Islamic Archaeology.

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The School has launched a new series of publications—Cuneiform Texts from Nimrud—with the issue of Volume I: *The Nimrud Wine Lists* by Mr. J. V. Kinnier Wilson of Cambridge University in November. Volume II: *The Governor's Palace Archive* by Mr. J. N. Postgate is in press and is due for publication in April 1973.

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In the Autumn number of Iraq XXXIV, we included a group of summary reports on current excavations in Iraq, 1971–72, compiled by the Assistant Director. It is intended to continue this report in the Autumn number of this volume, for excavations undertaken in Iraq, 1972–73.