

RESEARCH

Tony J. Wilkinson

In the winter quarter of 2002 Robert McC. Adams was back in residence at the Oriental Institute. His presence provided a valuable focus for many who are interested in regional analysis, irrigation systems, and remote sensing, as well as Mesopotamian archaeology in general. Consequently in February, in order to take advantage of his spell of residence, a number of seminars and workshops were convened. Particularly stimulating was a quarter-long seminar devoted to a comparative analysis of irrigation systems in the Near East (generously conceived in this case as extending from Bali to Egypt). Many sessions were staged at quite short notice, and despite — or as **Tony J. Wilkinson** suspects — because of their impromptu nature, they turned out to be very successful. Particularly noteworthy was a Saturday seminar conducted in the Department of Anthropology under the auspices of the Interdisciplinary Archaeology Workshop and organized by Nick Kouchoukos. The topic of this workshop was the use of CORONA satellite images for the study of ancient landscapes. This subject is particularly apposite because Robert Adams was instrumental in the release of these satellite images in the first place. From the perspective of the department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the Oriental Institute the session was particularly satisfactory thanks to splendid presentations of innovative work by Carrie Hritz, Jesse Casana, and Jason Ur.

Fieldwork by Wilkinson in 2001/2002 was limited to about two weeks in the Amuq plain, and some ten days in Syria in September 2001. Particularly instructive was a visit to the site of al-Anderine in central Syria where Marlia and Cyril Mango of the University of Oxford were investigating a massive Roman cistern on the edge of this magnificent Byzantine city.

Two papers were presented at sessions dedicated to Robert Adams. The first was a joint presentation (with Nick Kouchoukos) at the Association of American Anthropologists meeting in Washington, DC, and the second was in January at the Archaeological Institute of America gold-medal session. Other papers were given at the Society for American Archaeology in Denver, the annual “Excavation Results Symposium” meetings in Ankara (jointly with Aslıhan Yener), and at a workshop on “Archaeological Survey in the Mediterranean World” at the University of Michigan. Particularly enjoyable was a workshop at the University of Pennsylvania

devoted to the study of cultural interactions within the Indian Ocean. This provided an excellent opportunity to present a multi-disciplinary review of patterns of cultural interaction over the last 18,000 years in the light of changing patterns of winds, ocean currents, and climate.

In addition to putting the final stages to books on the *Archaeology of the Near Eastern Landscape* and the *Archaeology of the Upper Tabqa Dam Area (Syria)*, papers appeared in a number of journals and books, including *Tell Brak*, Volume 2, the *Proceedings of the Seminar for Arabian Studies*, a festschrift for David Oates, and the new catalog for the *Land of Sheba* exhibit at the British Museum.
