

To the Members and Friends of the Oriental Institute

Sometime next year, our two-millionth visitor will pass through the bronze gates of the Oriental Institute Museum. Since 1931, the Museum has been the Institute's principal contact with the public and the major way in which we have communicated our research to the community. Approximately fifty thousand people annually, many of them school children, visit the Museum to learn about the early history and prehistory of man in the ancient Near East.

Your membership dues and other contributions, both financial and in voluntary service, substantially assist in making our museum and research programs possible. For instance, during this past year, membership funds provided the equivalent of two-thirds of the archaeological field budget for the excavations at Chogha Mish and Nippur. Generous gifts to our publications program enabled us to continue preparing books on the results of our excavations at Jarmo and Abū Ṣalābīkh. We are grateful for this support from our members; and, in these days, which are financially trying for the university as a whole, it is heartening to know that our museum and research programs are being generously assisted by our friends. We hope that we shall continue to merit your interest and support.

In the following pages you will read summaries of our principal public and research programs over the past year: field excavations, the Epigraphic Survey, the Assyrian Dictionary, the Museum, individual research projects, and many others. Some of these endeavors have

been carried on now for more than fifty years; others are less than a year old. Much of the vital thrust of the Institute and of its international impact on the field of ancient Near Eastern studies has come from the character of its faculty and its staff: their ability to carry out massive continuing programs and their adaptability to new fields, which has found them doing pioneering work in developing research areas in the Near East.

Over the past year, our archaeologists have been particularly active in the field. In Turkey, Robert and Linda Braidwood have been adding new chapters to the architectural history of prehistoric man before 7000 B.C. (Çayönü). In Iraq, McGuire Gibson uncovered a temple dating from the time of the Persian Empire, as well as remains from many other historical periods (Nippur). In Iran, Helene Kantor has continued her exploration of the Protoliterate and Archaic periods (Chogha Mish). In Syria, Peter Parr assisted at a salvage operation in an area to be flooded by the new Euphrates dam; and an important large village, apparently inhabited continuously during the crucial transitional period from the ninth through the sixth millennium B.C., was partially excavated (Tell Abu Hureyra).

During the past months, three former or present members of our faculty have been honored by volumes dedicated to them. *Near Eastern Studies in Memory of Keith C. Seele* contains twenty-six articles on a wide variety of topics connected with the ancient and modern Near East written by colleagues in the Institute and in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. *Approaches to the Study of the Ancient Near East*, studies in honor of I. J. Gelb's sixty-fifth birthday (October, 1972), includes twenty-six contributions from American and European scholars on philological and archaeological subjects. *Anatolian Studies Presented to Hans Gustav Güterbock on the Occasion of his 65th Birthday* (May, 1973) is composed of two dozen papers concerned with the history, philology, and archaeology of the peoples who inhabited ancient Turkey. Another well deserved honor was Richard T. Hallock's election as a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy for his pioneering work with the Elamite documents from Persepolis.

Next year, circumstances permitting, we hope to see further excavations at Chogha Mish, Nippur, and Abū Ṣalābīkh and further archaeological survey work in Iraq. In addition, the direction of our two oldest and most ambitious continuing projects will change hands. In Egypt, Kent R. Weeks, presently of the American University in Cairo,



Mr. Robert Hanson with members of the Visiting Committee; Mr. Hanson celebrated his fortieth anniversary with the Museum on June 1. Photo by Ursula W. Schneider.

will assume control of the Epigraphic Survey, replacing Edward Wente, who returns to Chicago to resume full-time teaching and research. At home, Erica Reiner will take over from A. Leo Oppenheim, who is retiring, both as editor-in-charge of the Assyrian Dictionary project and as the John A. Wilson Professor of Oriental Studies. Other future plans and needs of the Oriental Institute are discussed toward the end of the report.

Once again we wish to express our gratitude to you, our members and friends, for continuing support through your contributions of time and money. The Institute owes much to your help.

JOHN A. BRINKMAN
Director

July 4, 1973