

IN MEMORIAM

FACULTY

Robert J. and Linda S. Braidwood

Robert Braidwood died peacefully in his sleep early on the morning of January 15, 2003, at the age of 95. His wife Linda, aged 93, followed a few hours later. It is difficult to overestimate the Braidwoods' professional stature, their impact on the archaeology of the Near East, and their role in archaeology as a general discipline. Their deaths mark the ending of an era.

Over the course of Bob Braidwood's long and distinguished career, he made numerous major contributions at every level — theory, methodology, and empirical data. As an educator, his textbook "Prehistoric Men" was tremendously influential in exposing several generations of students to the challenges of archaeology. More than almost anyone else, he exemplified archaeology at the Oriental Institute.

Bob was one of the first people to conduct and publish a systematic archaeological survey — "Mounds on the Plain of Antioch." His excavations at Kurdu, Dhahab, Ta'yinat, and Chatal Höyük in the Amuq plain — conducted under difficult conditions on the eve of World War II — established the basic chronological sequence for north Syria and southeast Anatolia: the sequence that remains in use more than six decades later.

Bob Braidwood's investigations of the Neolithic at Jarmo and related sites in the Zagros flanks pioneered the use of interdisciplinary research teams, bringing together natural scientists and archaeologists to study the origins of domestication and village life within their ecological context. He was the first to bring zooarchaeology and archaeobotany into the mainstream of archaeological research on these problems.

Bob Braidwood's work with Halet Çambel in the Joint Chicago-Istanbul Prehistoric Project not only resulted in the excavation of one of the most important Neolithic sites in the Near East, but also set the standard for real international collaboration with archaeologists from the Near East in investigating the past of their own countries.

Through the years, it is impossible to disentangle Bob Braidwood's contributions from those of his wife, Linda. The two of them were true intellectual partners in addition to their deep personal commitment to each other. Everyone who encountered them over the years was struck by the way they worked together as a team.

Although by her own preference less often in the public eye, Linda Braidwood was a major

scholar and noted author in her own right. Her book "Digging Beyond the Tigris" is a wonderful example of both her deep knowledge of the Near East and her ability to convey the complexities and excitement of archaeology to the educated lay public.

Finally, Robert and Linda were generous and fundamentally decent people. They were good colleagues and real mentors to generations of students and junior scholars. Virtually everyone with a long-term connection to the Oriental Institute has fond memories



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of the Braidwoods' generosity and hospitality, as exemplified by the numerous occasions when they were invited to the Braidwoods' home in La Porte for swimming, cookouts, and a general break from the stresses of the scholarly life.

We will miss Bob and Linda very much.

Gil J. Stein
