

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

McGuire Gibson

McGuire Gibson has been extremely busy in the past year. He has made dozens of appearances on television, been engaged in many more interviews on radio in the U.S. and abroad, and has been quoted in newspapers and magazines all over the world. All this media activity was related to his involvement in trying to save the remains of ancient Mesopotamia. Gibson was invited to a UNESCO conference in Paris on the Iraq Crisis and a follow-up conference at the British Museum in late April. He participated in a UNESCO fact-finding delegation that visited Baghdad in May, but he was already in the country as a member of a team of archaeologists sent by the National Geographic Society. At the end of that mission, Gibson spoke at a meeting entitled *Archaeology in No-Man's Land* in Bonn, Germany. In early June, he also spoke at a New York University-sponsored conference on *The Certainty of Uncertainty: Preserving Art and Culture in the 21st Century*. In Chicago, he gave a Marbury Lecture at the Piper-Rudnik law firm in a teleconference that reached twelve offices of the firm across the country. Also, during the year he addressed the Monday Class and other groups, usually on the question of the impending war or its results.

He has also been deeply involved in re-establishing the American Association for Research in Baghdad, a not-for-profit academic consortium of universities and museums that was nearly established in Iraq in 1990. It is hoped that the organization can set up a research center in Iraq in the very near future to encourage joint Iraqi-U.S. projects, foster exchanges of scholars on all levels, and otherwise strengthen working relationships between the academic communities of both countries.

Besides his continuing direction of Nippur and Hamoukar, he still maintains a major research commitment to the Diyala Objects Project and the Oriental Institute-Argonne Modeling Project. This year, Gibson joined the Advisory Board of the Chicago Humanities Festival. He continues to serve on the executive committee and the Board of Directors of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. Gibson is also on the board of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies.
