

McGuire Gibson

This past year, **McGuire Gibson** was guest curator of the Catastrophe! The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past exhibit at the Oriental Institute Museum, wrote an introduction and an

essay for the catalog, and gave two talks at its openings. He also spoke, with Dr. Nada Shabout, about the destruction of Iraq's cultural heritage at the Aurora Forum of Stanford University. He participated in a joint program on Iraq's heritage with Dr. Donny George at the Hyde Park Art Center. He was one of two speakers on "Non-use of Experts in Iraq" for the Social Science Research Council in Washington, D.C. He spoke at a meeting on "Iraq and Its Neighbors" at the Hollings Center in Istanbul that was co-sponsored by The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII), of which he is president. He also spoke to University of Chicago Alumni groups in Milwaukee and Denver, and to general audiences in Chicago, New York, and London. At the National Press Club in Washington, he was a featured speaker at the launching of the book, *Antiquities under Siege* (ed. L. Rothfield), in which he authored a chapter. He took part in the 6th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East in Rome. In May, he worked for three weeks in Amman with Iraqi archaeologists and a former student, Dr. Mark Altaweel, to ready for publication reports in English and Arabic on excavations conducted by the Iraqi colleagues. Mark and the Iraqis were actually in Istanbul because of visa difficulties for the Iraqis. Gibson kept in touch with the others by e-mail. One of the excavations being published is Iraqi work done at Tell Asmar (ancient Eshnunna) in 1999 and 2000. Tell Asmar was the focus of a major expedition by the Oriental Institute in the 1930s, so this new material is of special relevance to us. All of this work with the Iraqis is sponsored by TAARII with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The three years in which the project has been functioning have seen the appearance of four reports, with two others in press and at least three more to be sent to publishers. Gibson is the director of the project and the final editor of the English reports. During the current year, five other articles and a book review of his appeared in books and journals.

Besides serving as the president of TAARII, he still represents the University of Chicago on the board of directors of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies. He is also on the board of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.
