

McGuire Gibson

McGuire Gibson spent a very productive year that included participation in conferences, workshops, and publication projects. He presented a paper in Heidelberg on the Early Dynastic-Akkadian Transition to a conference on “Mesopotamia East of the Tigris.” He returned to Germany to take part in a workshop on third-millennium Mesopotamian pottery held in the town of Blaubeuren. He traveled to Cambridge, England, to be the commentator on papers presented to Joan Oates as a festschrift. He participated in a conference on Iraq’s 1958 revolution held at Williams College, Massachusetts. He also gave a talk at the Naval Academy in Annapolis on

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Mesopotamia and Iraq. Besides working on the Nippur publications project, he was also engaged with Mark Altaweel in a project created by The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII) that is reconstructing and translating into English archaeological reports by several Iraqi colleagues. This project, which has been going on for four years and will continue for one more, entails the translating of Arabic manuscripts into English, then editing them and improving the illustrations and format for submission to international journals. Each year, the American and Iraqi participants meet in Jordan or Turkey to work through and clarify problems. In June of 2009, the group met in Istanbul because it found out last year that Iraqis could easily gain visas to Turkey, while Jordan was becoming difficult. They stayed at a small hotel near the Blue Mosque for ten days, finalizing two manuscripts and beginning to work on three new ones. Although up to now, the publications in English have been restricted to articles in journals (*Iraq*, *Akkadica*), at least one book-length monograph will be sent to press in the next year. Currently, one article on the site of Tell al-Wilaya has just appeared in *Akkadica*, and another on Tell Abu-Shiija (ancient Pashime) will be submitted in a few weeks. Gibson continues to serve as the president of TAARII and as a board member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, and the American Institute for Yemeni Studies.
