

IRAQ-JARMO PROJECT

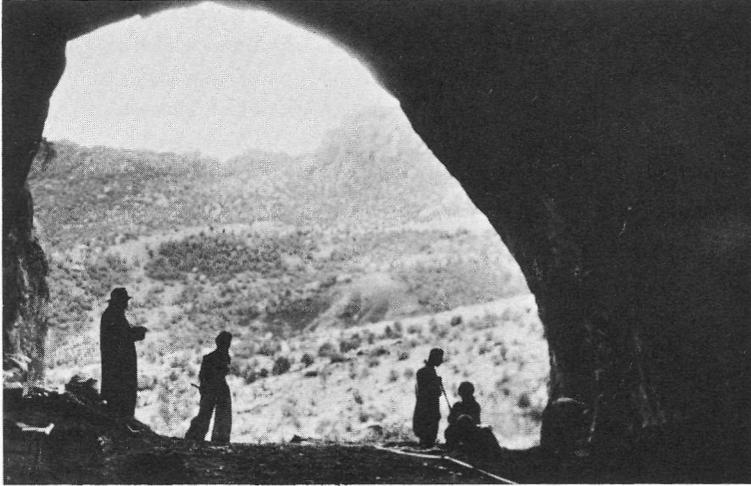
IN CHARGE: Robert J. Braidwood, *Professor of Old World Prehistory (on joint appointment with the Department of Anthropology), Field Director*

Since the end of World War II the Institute has sent out four expeditions to explore the later cave and earliest village sites of the Near East and thus literally to “dig up” the evidence

*Mound of Jarmo, seen from south*



of this transition. The first, in 1948, concentrated on an early agricultural site, Matarrah, in the plains of northern Iraq, and explored the region for traces of still earlier occupation. The second, in 1950-51, excavated parts of two earlier village sites, Jarmo and Karim Shahr, and cleared a series of cave shelters. The third expedition, in 1954-55, broadened the scope of the inquiry to its fullest extent. It explored an entire watershed tributary to the upper Tigris. It located more caves and the earliest village sites ever



*Within the cave of Hajiyah,  
above Bekhme village, in Iraqi Kurdistan*

found in the region and continued the excavation of the village of Jarmo. It aimed to determine the ecology of the transition by studying the geological history, the climate, and the native plant and animal resources of the region. Thus it sought to determine the nature and the circumstances of a revolution paralleled only by the industrial revolution of recent centuries and, like it, technological in character. Commencing in the fall of 1959, a fourth expedition undertook to apply the same variety of disciplinary approaches to the study of the transition to food production in a neighboring region, the hill country of southwestern Iran.

The second, third, and fourth of the Institute expeditions were supported and staffed in part by the American Schools of Oriental Research, while the third and fourth had the benefit also of grants from foundations and individuals. For the fourth expedition the Institute secured the services of scientists in many fields, including the natural sciences, with the assistance of a grant from the National Science Foundation. Besides our own people, its operating staff included:

Jack R. Harlan, *Botanist, Professor of Agronomy, Oklahoma State University*  
Bruce Howe, *Prehistoric Archeologist, Peabody Museum, Harvard University*  
Charles Reed, *Associate Professor of Zoölogy, University of Illinois*  
Herbert Wright, *Professor of Geology, University of Minnesota*

In the fall of 1961, Dr. Frank Hole returned to Iran to undertake further survey work and several trial excavations, being jointly sponsored by Rice University and the Oriental Institute.

The reporting of work so far accomplished is available in interim form in *Prehistoric Investigations in Iraqi Kurdistan*, with a further supplementary note on the 1959–60 season in *Science* (June 23, 1961). Definitive publications will follow as the work reaches completion.