

Publications

Unfortunately the accomplishments of the editorial office are not reflected in a substantial increase in the number of books that are available. Our series of definitive reports, "Oriental Institute Publications," involves years of preparation of manuscripts and illustrations by the authors—work that has to be superimposed on their other duties, such as teaching and excavating. And there is often a considerable lapse of time between the completion of a manuscript and the appearance of a book, because of the complex printing problems that our volumes entail. At the moment of writing, it is hoped that three lengthy manuscripts will be in the hands of the printer by fall. One of these ("OIP" LXXXVIII) is a report on private houses and graves excavated at three sites in Iraq in 1930–38. Another ("OIP" LXXVIII) describes excavations conducted at Nippur in the years 1948 to 1952. The third ("OIP" LXXVI) comprises Professor Abbott's second volume of Arabic literary papyri from the Oriental Institute's collection of Arabic manuscripts.

As to new books that are currently available, *Patterns in the Early Poetry of Israel*, by Stanley Gevirtz ("Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization" No. 32), appeared last fall. This study appeals not only to scholars but also to general readers who are interested either in the Old Testament or in poetry. A quite different aspect of ancient poetry is represented by a slim volume entitled *Most Ancient Verse*, which was presented to the members of the Oriental Institute at Christmas time. Written by Thorkild Jacobsen and John A. Wilson, it consists of English translations of Sumerian and Egyptian texts and can be purchased at the Oriental Institute lobby desk.

In our 1960/61 report we stated that two major works "will soon be off the press." "Soon" turned out to be March 1963 for Pro-

fessor Kraeling's *Ptolemais* and November 1963 for Volume VI of *Medinet Habu*, by the Epigraphic Survey. *Medinet Habu* Volume VII, which was scheduled to appear in April of this year, has suffered delay in printing but is now expected in October.

Three books which had been out of print for some time were reprinted for the convenience of scholars and students: *Sumerian Epics and Myths* ("OIP" XV), by Edward Chiera; *Nuzi Personal Names* ("OIP" LVII), by I. J. Gelb and others; *The Sumerian King List* ("Assyriological Studies" No. 11) by Thorkild Jacobsen.

Eight volumes of the Assyrian Dictionary have been published so far. The most recent to appear is Part I of Volume "A." Manuscripts for three further volumes are partially completed or in preparation. Sales continue steadily in the United States and abroad. In June, Professor Oppenheim's students honored him, on his birthday, with a volume entitled *Studies Presented to A. Leo Oppenheim*. This may be purchased at the Oriental Institute.

A new and up-to-date illustrated catalogue of Oriental Institute books will be ready for distribution during the fall.

ELIZABETH B. HAUSER
Editorial Secretary