

To the Members and Friends of the Oriental Institute

A year ago this introduction to the annual report was written at the end of the Institute's fiftieth year and in the afterglow of an anniversary celebration. The celebration of that milestone and the events associated with it were a salutary experience.

The beginning of the second half-century has not seen dramatic changes in the Institute, either planned or necessitated by changed circumstances, at least to all outward appearances. Any sudden or dramatic change in the course or composition of an institution with the interests and purposes of this one amid today's political, economic, and social uncertainties would most probably be an unplanned, unfortunate change forced upon it by circumstances beyond its control. The Institute is vulnerable, but it is not alone in being so. It is, among other more subtle ways, notably vulnerable, for example, in respect to its archeological field program. It is, of course, wholly dependent upon the course of political events in the Near East and on the good will of host countries. It has also come in recent years to rely of necessity for support of much of its field work on federal grants from the National Science Foundation and the Smithsonian Institution Foreign Currency Program as well as upon a Ford Foundation grant for student field training. Untoward political developments in the Near East or changes in the domestic economy or in our own national emphasis could drastically reduce or alter the character and scope of the field program.

This is not a warning of impending or anticipated disaster by any means. Nor is it a bland admission that the Oriental Institute and its scholars at home and abroad have never changed methods, approaches, problems, or projects except when forced by some misfortune, but such changes of direction are not apt to be dramatic in any one year. They are gradual and develop slowly, and I believe that some have begun even in this normal year, much as they may be overshadowed by the major and long-term projects that have themselves become famous institutions within the Institute. Even if reverses were to come—and it would not be the first time in fifty years that they had come—I believe that the Institute's human resources are unmatched anywhere in the world. Its faculty is a preponderantly young and vigorous one, a resilient and inventive group which can, both individually and corporately, adapt itself to disappointment and find uses for adversity. It is, above all, in this day of demand for the social accountability of institutions, strong enough to resist the temptation to search frantically for a spurious relevance but will continue to adapt itself to an enlarged and surer understanding of its humanitarian goals and of better ways to attain them.

Be that as it may, the remainder of this report by the director is going to assume unabashedly the form of a news column largely of items about the Institute's greatest asset, people. It will detail some, not all, of the events in the lives of some, not all, of the members of the staff, largely in the line of duty and largely of the kind that they would not report themselves or, in some cases, of which they were not able to provide their own account for this report. The director does so knowing full well that the procedure is fraught with the danger of triviality and lays him open to suspicions of superficiality, favoritism, lack of awareness, forgetfulness, and possibly even worse sins of omission. It may also result in more interesting reading for our "lay" members for whom it is intended.

Despite changes of plans in a few cases, a number of expeditions and individuals from the Institute made their way to the Near East during the year for normal seasons and planned tasks. In certain cases where original plans fell through, scholars improvised or turned their attention elsewhere and, as it happened, with notable satisfaction and

marked success in each case. Altogether normal and as planned were the seasons of three major expeditions.

The Euphrates Valley Expedition, as Hans G. Güterbock and Maurits N. van Loon report below, had its second season at Korucutepe in eastern Turkey. This excavation is, I believe, a model of excellent field work, of international cooperation in a salvage effort, where the area is to be flooded by the Keban Dam, and of the remarkably capable training of a staff of graduate students on the job.

The venerable Epigraphic Survey had another successful recording season at Luxor in Upper Egypt, as can be gathered from Charles F. Nims's report below. Professor Nims barely refers, however, to the one incident that made the season at Luxor anything but routine. For the first time in the Survey's forty-two seasons since 1924, a member of the staff was the victim of a serious accident. It was Professor Nims himself, an old hand of nearly thirty seasons on epigraphic ladders and scaffolds, who had to come down from a considerable height off a ladder onto the stone pavement of the forecourt of the Temple of Khonsu at Karnak. His fractured heels kept him in casts for over two months and out of epigraphic work even longer, but it is a tribute to him, to Mrs. Nims and to an excellent staff and organization that the work went on admirably well under his direction but without his participation in the temple.

At Chogha Mish in western Khuzestan, southern Iran, the Joint Iranian Expedition of the Oriental Institute and the University of California at Los Angeles spent a season of double the usual length because of having missed the 1968/69 season. Helene J. Kantor for the Institute and P. P. Delougaz for U.C.L.A. had under their direction a bright and eager staff of graduate students for this fourth season's work on the huge mound and forty-acre site. Members of the Institute received newsletters from the expedition during the season.

Professor Kantor, very shortly after her return to Chicago from the long season in Iran, departed for Australia, where she will teach Near Eastern archeology as a visiting professor in the University of Sidney during the Trinity term.

Robert and Linda Braidwood, for various reasons not of their

making, were forced to forego the autumn, 1969, season of their Joint Istanbul-Chicago Prehistoric Project at Çayönü in southeastern Turkey. They expect to have their third season at the site in the autumn of 1970.

Instead of being in Iraq working from the Institute's base at Nippur to continue his surface reconnaissance of southern Iraq for approximately six months last winter, Robert McC. Adams had to make drastic changes in his plans when it appeared that he would not be able to go to Iraq. Professor Oleg Grabar of Harvard invited Professor Adams and the Institute to join in his expedition working at the medieval town of Qasr el-Hayr near Palmyra in Syria. Although he and James E. Knudstad, Field Architect of the Institute, participated in the excavation, Professor Adams was also able to carry on surface reconnaissance in the area. Professor Adams had the honor, which we share, of being elected to the National Academy of Sciences during the year and was presented the challenge of becoming Dean of the Division of the Social Sciences in the University on July 1, 1970.

Hans J. Nissen, shifting from earlier plans for Iraq and Turkey, settled upon an alternative project for the spring of 1970. He had hoped at some time to do a surface survey of sites and trade routes in southeastern Khuzestan. Accompanied by Mr. Charles L. Redman, a graduate student who had been scheduled to work with Professor Adams in Iraq, Professor Nissen had a very successful campaign of about a month in the Behbahan Plain of the Hendijan Valley.

When Robert D. Biggs was unable to spend a second season last autumn as epigrapher with the joint Metropolitan Museum-New York University expedition excavating at Al-Hiba in Iraq because the expedition could not take to the field, he betook himself to the Museum in Baghdad for some weeks in the spring of 1970. He is finishing the copying, collating, and joining of fragments of cuneiform tablets bearing Sumerian texts which were found in Institute soundings in 1963 and 1965 at Tell Abū Ṣalābīkh, near Nippur in southern Iraq.

Professor Emeritus John A. Wilson was again in Egypt for a second season as Egyptologist for the University of Pennsylvania's

Akhenaten Temple Project under the direction of Ray W. Smith. The project is an attempt to bring order out of the chaos of many thousands of inscribed stone blocks of a temple built in the fourteenth century B.C. by the heretic king Akhenaten at Karnak which was dismantled and the blocks re-used as fill in numerous structures built by Akhenaten's successors. The blocks have been retrieved from these later structures in recent decades and are still being retrieved. The huge task is to recompose the vast jig-saw puzzle, of which parts are missing, by the use of photography, since the pieces of the puzzle are unwieldy, of IBM computers, since the possible combinations are nearly infinite, and of Egyptological know-how.

On his way to Egypt in January Professor Wilson delivered the Adriaan de Buck Memorial Lecture at the University of Leiden. De Buck had been a protégé of Breasted's and affiliated with the Institute most of his scholarly life in the publication of the seven volumes of *The Egyptian Coffin Texts*.

During the academic year just ending A. Leo Oppenheim spent the autumn quarter as a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and upon his return to Chicago underwent a successful surgical operation to round out an eventful year. Erica Reiner spent a brief period in the winter quarter at the British Museum in London working at cuneiform texts. David Pingree, as he does not say in his report below, was on leave most of the academic year as a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. Louis V. Žabkar, formerly a Research Associate in the Institute, now Professor in the Department of Mediterranean Studies in Brandeis University, returned briefly to Khartoum, the Sudan, in June to conclude affairs of the excavation at Semna South which he directed in 1966 to 1968 and to return objects from the excavations lent us for treatment and study by the Sudanese government.

In the death of William Franklin Edgerton at the age of 76 on March 20, 1970, the Institute lost one of its original faculty members and Egyptology one of its ablest scholars. Professor Edgerton had been instructed by Breasted and received his Ph.D. under him in 1922. In 1926, after brief faculty appointments at the University of Louisville and Vassar College, he was brought back by Breasted to

become an Egyptologist on the staff of the Epigraphic Survey, then two years old. In 1929 he returned to residence in Chicago and taught almost continuously until his retirement in 1959. A long line of colleagues and generations of students of Professor Edgerton's can attest to association with an exceedingly keen analytical mind and a forthright gentleman whose passing they mourn.

It is no easy task for the members of the Epigraphic Survey, Luxor, past and present to bid farewell to the Institute's employee of longest tenure, Mr. John Healey of Bishop Auckland, County Durham, England. Mr. Healey signed on as Superintendent in 1932 and from that time on, under all four directors of the expedition and all the directors of the Oriental Institute, he was the one continuous member of the staff and, in the minds of many of us, the one indispensable member including ourselves.

Although Richard C. Haines reached academic retirement in June, 1970, he has been prevailed upon to postpone his retirement plans for a year or two for the purpose of pushing to completion the publication of certain Institute excavations. In some cases these excavations took place decades in the past, and although Professor Haines was not originally responsible for their publication, he is now the only remaining participant in them. The task is scarcely the most enviable alternative to the freedom of retirement. To sweeten the prospect, however, Professor and Mrs. Haines have agreed to conduct the Oriental Institute tour of Iran in April, 1971.

It was undoubtedly because of John A. Brinkman's devotion to teaching, his energetic interest in students, and his concern for the caliber and welfare of the teaching faculty as much as because of his scholarly competence and achievement that his colleagues chose him to be the Chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, whose function and relationship to the Institute he describes below. Professor Brinkman succeeded to the post on July 1, 1969, when Muhsin S. Mahdi departed for Harvard. This manifestation of esteem for his abilities and the appearance of his compendious *Political History of Post-Kassite Babylonia* were exceeded in importance only by his marriage to Miss Monique Geschier in March, 1970.

Were the characterization of the staff of the Institute and Depart-

ment above as “preponderantly young” in need of corroboration, it ought to find some in the fact that in addition to Professor Brinkman two other members were married during the academic year: Gene B. Gragg to Miss Michele Rochat in December, 1969, and Edward F. Wentz to Miss Leila Ibrahim in April, 1970. As a further enhancement of the faculty’s already cosmopolitan cast the brides are, respectively, Belgian, French, and Egyptian by nationality and two of them are archeologists in their own right.

The Institute lost one of the most devoted and active members of its Visiting Committee with the death of Mr. W. Press Hodgkins of Lake Forest, Illinois, on December 2, 1969. Following his retirement from business in 1965, Mr. Hodgkins had devoted himself to voluntarily assisting a number of educational institutions in fund-raising, and the Oriental Institute was fortunate in being one of them. He had organized and personally conducted four archeological trips for the benefit of the Institute: to Turkey in the autumn of 1966, to Lebanon, Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan in the spring of 1968, to Greece in the autumn of 1968, and to South America early in 1969. He had organized but was unable to lead a fifth, to East Africa, in the autumn of 1969, shortly before his death.

The 1969/70 series of monthly Institute lectures for members was initiated on October 14 with an innovation in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary year in the form of a symposium on “Nature and Culture: The Appearance of Food Production in Southwestern Asia.” It was organized by Robert and Linda Braidwood, and the participants with them on the stage of Mandel Hall were seven past and present members of the field staff of their Prehistoric Project, supplemented by Mr. John Pfeiffer, scientific journalist, who acted as moderator, and M. Jean Perrot, a distinguished French archeologist.

Following the well-attended symposium a reception in the galleries of the Museum was the occasion for the opening of an exhibition of “Paintings and Drawings from Turkey and Iraq,” by Martyl. It was on visits to Oriental Institute expeditions that Martyl (Mrs. Alexander Langsdorf, Jr.), a well-known Chicago artist, had done her paintings and drawings.

The second in the lecture series, on November 5, was also a

pleasant departure from the usual. Mr. Arthur S. Bowes, a member of the Visiting Committee, showed a color film which he had taken on the Institute trip through Turkey in 1966. The film had been produced with professional skill by Mr. Bowes and narrated by Mrs. Bowes and himself.

On October 7, 1969, the Museum found itself playing a startling role when it was the impromptu and unlikely host to a one-day exhibition for the University community of "moon rocks" brought back by the first manned flight to the moon. The Museum has become increasingly popular in recent years but never as popular as it was on that one day.

The increased popularity of our Museum in the Chicago community, particularly among the public schools, was probably something to be expected from the great increase in the number of museums of all sorts throughout the country and the burgeoning popularity of all of them. However, the increased attendance in the case of our Museum has been phenomenal and it has had additional significance educationally because it has been deliberately met and imaginatively capitalized upon. Mrs. John Livingood's single-handed efforts to initiate and perfect a Volunteer Guide Program have succeeded admirably and the program has now reached a maturity of experience and smoothness of operation. This is not to say that the program automatically runs and perpetuates itself, that new volunteers need not be sought and provided with a course of instruction annually, but the success of the pattern and the apparent satisfaction—the only remuneration—of past volunteers have a way of attracting other persons devoted to the idea of public education of this kind and willing to give time to it.

The Suq (Museum Shop) is also a part of the Volunteer Program conceived and initiated by Mrs. Livingood and Mrs. Theodore D. Tieken, and it is now an immensely successful enterprise despite restricted space in the lobby and inadequate facilities. It also makes unremitting demands on those who give their time and experience to making it a responsible, orderly business venture contributing financially very substantially to the Institute's resources for the meeting of unbudgeted needs.

It is with greater appreciation than perhaps she has realized we felt that we mark the relinquishment of the Chairmanship of the Volunteer Docents by Mrs. Charles R. Shields of Downers Grove after a three-year tenure covering most of the life of the program. Mrs. Shields will continue, I am happy to say, to serve as one of the volunteer guides, but she will be replaced as Chairman of the group by Mrs. Richard Frank, herself long an enthusiastic Museum docent.

Mrs. Ezra I. Hurwich of Lincolnwood has also found it necessary to retire from the Chairmanship of the Suq Volunteers. Mrs. Hurwich's efficient service has earned everyone's gratitude; her lively, enthusiastic presence has endeared her to us. She has been succeeded as Chairman by Mrs. Paul Manes, a more recent volunteer, to whom we are grateful for taking on the responsibility and for whom we wish a compensating satisfaction.

Mrs. Theodore Tieken and Mrs. G. Corson Ellis, although volunteers also, continue after several years' experience to be sought after in the basement workshops for their very considerable expertise in reconstructing pottery and other objects brought back from the field by the expeditions.

The Oriental Institute has from the beginning been dependent upon the financial contributions of persons who were not Orientalists but who believed that "the proper study of mankind is man" and that an indispensable part of that study is the rise of man and the origins and often tortuous development of his institutions and civilizations. This basic participation by the layman began with John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and the establishment and enlargement of the Institute, a concept then ahead of its time. The economic environment has changed greatly since the '20's, and the collapse of the '30's had enduring effects. The way back for the Institute in the '40's and '50's under the directorships of John A. Wilson and Carl H. Kraeling was a slow and arduous one. The shift from the support almost exclusively of one patron to a fixed University budget—and that in economically stringent years—left practically no support, for example, for the field expeditions and retention of even their senior staff members. It was largely with an eye to restoring in some measure the field work that Carl Kraeling turned in the '50's to revitalizing an

existing but negligible outside membership. By arrangement with the University he undertook to underwrite from income from members a portion of the regular budget, or rather to increase that regular budget from such outside income.

To provide some return and participation for the members, the expense of providing such things as newsletters, the annual report, public lectures, and the mementoes at Christmas was to be borne by the dues and contributions of members, but most of the income was to go directly into underwriting a part of the budget. Any remainder gave the director a small contingency fund for emergencies and unforeseen opportunities.

The number of members gained in the '50's was doubled in a drive in 1965 and now stands at about 900. Without the contributions of members and lately the income of the Suq, basic Institute functions, which are now taken for granted as essential by the staff and others, would have to be curtailed or dropped. Every member is highly prized, and this applies to each \$10 annual dues-paying member as well as to those who contribute hundreds, a few of them thousands, of dollars annually, sometimes for designated purposes—and those designations are always honored—but more often for unrestricted purposes. To this company, which we hope will grow, it can be said gratefully that their gifts are not spent on luxuries which could be dispensed with nor for overhead.

The two Lassalle Fellowships in Egyptian and Coptic studies were provided for the fourth consecutive year by Patricia R. and Dr. Edmundo Lassalle of New York, and in addition their gift subsidized the preparation for publication of materials from the excavations at Serra East and Semna South in the Sudan and the printing of the report of the excavation of the Qasr el-Wizz monastery in Egyptian Nubia. Dr. and Mrs. Lassalle visited the campus in March much to the delight of many at the University.

The Institute lost a valued friend in the death by auto accident of Mr. Robert S. Chalifoux, vice-president of Photopress, Inc., of Broadview, Illinois. He had followed his father, Edward J., in the family business, and both father and son had taken personal pride in the printing of the plates for a number of Institute volumes and had

frequently contributed the printing of costly color plates which would otherwise have been prohibitive. The copies of "Birds in an Acacia Tree" which were sent to our members last Christmas and other copies which were sold in the Suq were the unsolicited gift of Robert Chalifoux and Photopress.

Lest the director be accused, as he has been, of failure to divulge his concerns and activities, not to say failure to write a newsletter about them, let it be recorded that Mrs. Hughes and I made a trip of about six weeks in October and November primarily to visit the Institute's expeditions in eastern Turkey (Korucutepe), in southern Iran (Chogha Mish), and in Upper Egypt (Luxor). The visits were not for the purpose of checking on the expeditions and how they were performing but solely to inform myself sufficiently to be an understanding and helpful ear at home base. Much of the trip was business, much of it was an introduction to areas of the Near East entirely new to us, all of it was a pleasure except possibly for twelve-hour, hot bus rides from Ankara to Elâziğ in Turkey and from Tehran to Andimeshk in Iran when other modes of transportation failed. Even those rides had their compensations, especially in previously unknown territory.

It was not since the spring of 1964, when we left Luxor and the Epigraphic Survey for the last time, that we had been in the Near East. The return to Egypt, to Cairo and Luxor, was in the nature of a homecoming to the scene of much of our lives and interests for eighteen years, so much so that it was difficult to find time amid pleasurable entertainment for the hours I needed over a Demotic papyrus in the Cairo Museum.

So be it, and may the following report give all of you some insight into a part of the varied and complex pursuits of one research institute—a great one, I believe.

GEORGE R. HUGHES
Director