

Publications

JEAN ECKENFELS, *Editorial Secretary*

Two volumes from the Institute's series "Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization" were reprinted in the spring of 1972: Robert J. Braidwood and Bruce Howe, *Prehistoric Investigations in Iraqi Kurdistan*, published originally in 1960, now in its third printing; and Ann Louise Perkins, *The Comparative Archeology of Early Mesopotamia*, now in its sixth printing since 1949. The first of these two reissues, besides being one of our best-selling titles, provides a framework for the Iraq-Jarmo Project report which will be published next year. *The Comparative Archeology of Early Mesopotamia* has become a standard text in constant demand.

The final volume of Nabia Abbott's three-volume work, *Studies in Arabic Literary Papyri*, appeared late in the summer of 1972. The author presents seven documents which deal with language and literature, including two grammar documents, one speech, descriptive prose, anecdotes, literary criticism,

and poetry. All of these documents bear a relation to each other; for example, writings from the major poets and prominent scholars of the day are included and form the basis for an analysis of the intellectual and social milieu in which they worked. Literary criticism appears here in its earliest form, as a ranking of leading poets and of their finest lines in various categories of poetic expression. In the brief elementary grammar texts, poetry citations are used as illustrative examples. Together these papyri, dated in the first to mid-third century of Islam, reflect the high degree of literary achievement during the Umayyad period.

But the first volume of *Studies in Arabic Literary Papyri*, published in 1957, is already out of print. In recent years the Institute has been faced with the problem of a rapidly growing list of out-of-print titles which cannot be reprinted because of the extremely high cost of the original format. We are aware of this handicap to students and scholars, and the University of Chicago Press has recently proposed a very promising solution. All out-of-print titles in the "Oriental Institute Publication" series except those originally published in folio will be made available in microfiche editions. This format will enable new libraries to expand their holdings in currently out-of-print books, and we hope that the low cost of these editions will make them attractive to individuals as well.