

# Publications

*Jean Eckenfels*

Going Forth by Day—the designation sometimes used on the papyrus rolls buried beside the deceased in his coffin—expressed the idea the ancient Egyptian held of death and the afterlife. Now more commonly called the Book of the Dead, these compositions were devised to realize the longing to return by day, to visit again at will the scenes of everyday life on earth.

*The Book of the Dead or Going Forth By Day* (“Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization,” No. 37), by T. George Allen, who was Oriental Institute editorial secretary from 1927 until 1951, was published posthumously and was prepared for publication by Mrs. Elizabeth B. Hauser, who worked under Mr. Allen for two decades and succeeded him upon his retirement.

This volume is a carefully annotated “eclectic” translation of all the spells yet numbered (192) plus some insertions. Earlier versions of many of these spells can be found in the Coffin Texts, compositions written on wooden coffins in the 19th or 20th century B.C., and even in the Pyramid Texts of the 23rd or 24th century B.C. In time the papyri came to be “mass-produced” and the name of the deceased was filled in at the time of purchase. But eventually the documents themselves took on magical properties to the extent that the blanks left for the name of the beneficiary often were not filled in. Important as it is for its scholarly contribution, this book will doubtless find a wide general audience because of the highly readable style of Mr. Allen’s presentation.

Two reports on the Institute’s excavations at Nippur are in preparation. Richard C. Haines’s volume on the North Temple and Sounding E, *Nippur II* (“Oriental Institute Publications,” Vol. XCVII), has been temporarily withheld from publication so that the epigraphic material from the 1951/52 and 1953/54 seasons being prepared by Robert D. Biggs can be included in the volume. Production will begin during the summer.

The preliminary report on the 1972/73 season at Nippur, *Excavations at Nippur: Eleventh Season* (“Oriental Institute Communications,” No. 22), by McGuire Gibson, with appendices by Miguel

Civil, Janet H. Johnson, and Stephen A. Kaufman, is nearing completion and should be published in the fall. The volume will include a catalogue of pottery and other objects, sherd drawings, and more photographs than usual for a preliminary report.

On June 7, 1974, Thorkild Jacobsen, former director of the Oriental Institute and a renowned Sumerologist, was honored for his seventieth birthday with the presentation of a collection of essays on Sumerian language and civilization. The publication of these essays, edited by Stephen J. Lieberman of New York University, has been undertaken by the Oriental Institute, and they are scheduled to appear in the series "Assyriological Studies." Topics covered by the contributors to the *Festschrift* include language, geography, economic and social structure, law, lexicography, schools, and literature. Samuel Noah Kramer, in his assessment of Mr. Jacobsen, describes him as "a heroic figure in cuneiform research."