

PUBLICATIONS

Jean Eckenfels

To honor Thorkild Jacobsen, a renowned Sumerologist and former director of the Oriental Institute, with a truly fitting tribute was a formidable task, for rarely has one man made such significant contributions to the understanding of Mesopotamian civilization.

Since no random collection of articles seemed quite adequate, specific articles in the field of Sumerology were solicited so that the volume would include a critical description of the course taken by scholarly research up to the present, an analysis of the approaches that have been used in the research, and a prospectus on the techniques and problems that should prove fruitful to future investigation. Even though Sumerology is only one of the fields to which Professor Jacobsen has made a fundamental contribution, the scope was limited to the study of Sumerian civilization so that each contributor might have an opportunity to approach his topic from a broad perspective. *Sumerological Studies in Honor of Thorkild Jacobsen* ("Assyriological Studies," No. 20), edited by Stephen J. Lieberman, includes contributions by Samuel Noah Kramer, Hans J. Nissen, Tom B. Jones, Dietz Otto Edzard, I. M. Diakonoff, M. Civil, Åke W. Sjöberg, William W. Hallo, and Claus Wilcke.

Two new publication series have been established in the past year: "Microfiche Archives" and "Materials and Studies for Kassite History." Early in 1976 the Oriental Institute published its first volume with illustrations in microfiche, *Old Babylonian Contracts from Nippur I: Selected Texts from the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania* ("Microfiche Archives," Vol. I), by Elizabeth C. Stone and Paul E. Zimansky. This series was created for the publication of ancient sources, and the volume contains a catalogue of 70 texts, with 296 photographs on microfiche. The cost of such a publication produced by ordinary printing methods would have been prohibitive. Microfiche also offers the advantage of avoiding the screen required in the printing of half-tone illustrations. Similar collections of ancient sources are planned for publication in the future if this volume is well received.

In the second of the new series, "Materials and Studies for Kassite History," will appear John A. Brinkman's *Catalogue of Cuneiform Sources Pertaining to Specific Monarchs of the Kassite Dynasty*. This catalogue lists all presently known cuneiform texts that pertain to the

history of the Kassite dynasty and can readily be connected with the reign of a specific monarch.

Janet H. Johnson's *Demotic Verbal System* ("Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization," No. 38) is due to appear in the fall of 1976. It is intended to update the work done by previous generations of Demoticists. Many of the new insights into the structure of the Egyptian language that have come to light during the last thirty years are applied to Demotic, often for the first time; advances in the reading and understanding of Demotic itself are also incorporated. As a result, the basic paradigms, the forms constituting these different paradigms, the meaning of each, and the syntactic usages of each of the various constructions have been redefined.

Other publications are in various stages of preparation: Richard C. Haines's *Nippur II* ("Oriental Institute Publications," Vol. XCVII) is nearing completion and *Chogha Mish: An Interim Report on the First Five Seasons of Excavations, 1961-71* ("Oriental Institute Communications," No. 23) is being prepared for production.