

RESEARCH ARCHIVES

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The third year of operations of the Research Archives may be characterized as one of growth. The use of its facilities has increased by about 25 per cent over the previous year, and the hours of operation have been expanded. During each academic quarter, it was possible to open on the weekends for the same hours as those of the Museum. It was most gratifying to see that part of our increase in usage was composed of members of the Oriental Institute making use of the resources of the Research Archives.

Although the Research Archives still contains many gaps in its collections, much progress has been made in the completion of its holdings. At the conclusion of a statistical year ending May 15, 1976, the collection held the following:

Monographs	3581 volumes
Series	2326 volumes
Journals	2866 volumes
Microfiche editions	147 volumes
Total books	8920 volumes
Pamphlets	5554 items (est.)

During the past year, the collection increased by 1,602 volumes. An examination of the various holdings of the Research Archives as compared to an ideal collection on the Ancient Near East reveals the current state of its collections:

Monographs:	54% complete (but nearly half the remainder is obsolete)
Series:	82% complete
Journals:	74% complete
Pamphlets:	50% complete

It is hoped that in the next few years, the deficiencies in each of these categories will be made up. By area, the holdings of Egyptological materials remain especially strong, but improvements have been made in the holdings on cuneiform studies and archeology. Progress has been especially difficult in the field of archeology as the required excavation reports are often all but unobtainable.

This year it has finally proved possible to begin the sorting and cataloguing of the unpublished papers held by the Research Archives. Margaret Root has begun this time-consuming and thankless task.



The 1928 A.D. Feast of Abu'l Haggag at Luxor, in a photograph excavated from the Research Archives

Among the items of interest brought forth by her labors are: a plan and set of photographs of the tomb of Amenhotep at Bahria Oasis, Egypt, from George Steindorff's survey of the oases made in 1899/1900 (these photographs preserve much of the decoration of the tomb which had been lost by the time it was recorded in 1938); a photograph of the Feast of Abu'l Haggag at Luxor, Egypt, in 1928 (this feast is often considered to be a continuation of the ancient Egyptian Festival of Opet, following a tradition of over 3000 years); and eleven starched Golden Arrow collars (size 15½).

Support for the Research Archives has continued throughout the year. Special mention is given to the continued cooperation of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*. Generous donations of books were received from George R. Hughes, Charles Francis Nims, and Klaus Baer, among others. Additional contributions were made to the memory of Henry B. Babson, William F. Edgerton, Mrs. Elsie Kraeling, Chester D. Tripp, and Mrs. Edith B. Wells.

The routine work of the Research Archives was ably carried out with the assistance of John A. Larson and three other students, George C. Moore, Ann Roth, and Howard M. Farber. Thanks also go to Mrs. Ida McPherson, who has generously volunteered her time to the Research Archives.

The Research Archives is available for use by the members of the Oriental Institute, and they are cordially invited to make use of its resources.