

# Research Archives

*Richard Zettler* When the Research Archives first opened its doors to patrons in September 1973, its shelves appeared nearly bare. To those who worked and studied here in that year it seemed as if the holdings of 6000 volumes and 5250 pamphlets would never grow enough to fill all the available shelf space in the reading room. Now, nearly six years later, tables have been pushed back to back, additional shelving installed, and the existing shelves packed tightly to accommodate our more than 11,000 volumes and 6000 pamphlets. In 1973, the number of patrons making use of the Research Archives in a given hour could be counted on the fingers of two hands. Now, it is not uncommon to find in any given hour more than forty students, faculty, and members using our collection. The Research Archives is crowded, but it is a crowding that carries with it a certain satisfaction and pride in growth.

The Research Archives continued to grow at a steady

pace in the period May 15, 1978 to May 15, 1979, as a comparison of the following 1978/1979 totals with those published in the Annual Report for 1977/1978 should show.

Monographs	4774
Series	2718
Journals	<u>3727</u>
Total Books	11219
Pamphlets	6096

The total number of volumes acquired (700) is slightly higher than in 1977/78, but seems to confirm a trend of that year and indicates that new purchases have indeed begun to level off, as stated in last year's Annual Report.

Satisfaction in the growth of the Research Archives should not mask, however, the fact that our holdings are inadequate in a number of areas, particularly Assyriology and archeology. With regard to Assyriological holdings, the Research Archives is still lacking portions of several important text collections. The publications of the texts excavated at Nippur by the old University of Pennsylvania Expedition (1889–1900), published in a series called *Babylonian Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania*, and the publication of texts excavated by the French Mission to Tello, published as the series *Inventory des Tablettes de Tello*, are but two examples. In addition, the Archives is lacking a substantial portion of the French Assyriological journal, *Revue d'assyriologie*. This journal has been reprinted in recent years, but the reprint is prohibitively expensive. On the archeological side, the Research Archives has managed to acquire some major, out-of-print items in the last year or two, but is still lacking very important excavation reports, for example Ernest de Sarzac, *Découvertes en Chaldée*, the publication of the old French work at Tello; Richard Starr, *Nuzi*; A. Tobler, *Excavations at Tepe Gawra*, Volume 2; and several of the reports on the excavations at Lachish and Samaria. Filling in the gaps in our Assyriological and archeological holdings has been and will continue to be a prime goal of the Research Archives.

The cost of funding a research library in our area of interest and of our size is, as might be imagined, consid-

erable. One method used with increasing frequency in recent years to cut costs is the exchange. The Oriental Institute trades its own publications (OIP's, OIC's, SAOC's, etc.) to interested institutions for the publications of those institutions. The year 1978/79 has seen the continuation of existing exchanges with the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, the Department of Antiquities of Cyprus, and the Corning Museum of Glass, among others, and the beginning or expansion of other exchange programs. We began this year, for example, an exchange with the Louvre, initiated through the good graces of Mme. Ch. Desroches-Noblecourt of the Department of Egyptian Antiquities of the Louvre. We were also happy to expand, at the initiative of Robert McC. Adams, already existing exchange programs with several East German institutions. The Research Archives now has standing trade arrangements with the Akademie der Wissenschaften der DDR, the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, both the Ägyptisches Museum and the Vorderasiatisches Museum, and the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek. Through this program we have been able to acquire many otherwise unavailable items, including Keilschrifturkunden aus Boghazköi, a series of publications of Hittite texts, and a beautifully bound and nearly complete run of *Das Altertum*, a journal dealing with all aspects of ancient and classical civilizations, and we will receive regular subscriptions each year from now on to several journals published in East Germany and dealing with ancient Near Eastern studies. Additionally, we have received and will receive a number of Akkadian text editions and archeological studies. These exchanges result in considerable savings to the Research Archives over the course of the year, and will continue to be an important part of our operations.

As usual, in 1978/79 members of the faculty and staff and friends of the Oriental Institute were most generous to the Research Archives. Special thanks are due to Robert D. Biggs, editor of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, for his cooperation and for his generous contributions of books, time, and advice in the course of the year. Klaus Baer, McGuire Gibson, and Charles Nims continued their annual contributions to the Research

Archives and also deserve thanks. For a large part of the year, I was out of the country in Iraq, participating in the Hamrin Dam salvage project and completing research in the Iraq Museum. During my absence, Frank Yurco oversaw the Archives' operations. The three students who so capably carried out the daily and routine tasks of the Research Archives over the last couple of years, Luanne Buchanan, Lorelei Corcoran, and Robert Ritner, have all moved on to take other jobs closer to their own areas of interest in the course of the year, and I need to express to them my sincere thanks for all their work. John Currid, Alice Figundio, and David Testen, also students in the University, stepped in and have carried out the day to day functioning of the Archives.

The Research Archives is open to faculty, staff, and members of the Oriental Institute, as well as students in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and we encourage friends to make use of it. Hours are as follows:

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Fall, Winter, and Spring Quarters		
Monday–Friday:		9:00–5:00
Saturday:		12:00–4:00
Sunday:		12:00–4:00

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Summer Quarter		
Monday–Friday:		9:00–2:00.

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