

I N T R O D U C T I O N

To the Members and Friends of the Oriental Institute:

The past twelve months have seen many milestones—the passing of old friends, the culmination of long-cherished projects, the birth of new designs for research. You, our members and friends, have played an important role in the advances.

We began the academic year last autumn with a symposium to mark the Institute's sixtieth anniversary. The symposium dealt with chronology and dating problems for the Near East from 3500-2000 B.C. The conclusions from three days of discussions and papers offered some significant changes to the accepted views which have prevailed for the last quarter century. These changes are discussed elsewhere in this volume.

Several archeological or epigraphical expeditions took to the field in Turkey (Çayönü), Egypt (Luxor and Quseir), Iraq (Hamrin), and North Yemen (Zafar). The long-awaited permission to proceed with salvage excavations behind the new Euphrates dam in southern Turkey was finally received in mid-June; and ten days later Leon Marfoe and his staff were on their way to begin their first season.

June 1980 marked a rite of passage for the Chicago Hittite Dictionary with the publication of its first 96-page fascicle. The project, which began on a small scale when Harry Hoffner started collecting lexical materials at Brandeis seventeen years ago, has now received its second three-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in the amount of \$385,821.

The Assyrian Dictionary, whose "N" volumes are being published this year, has just received special distinction from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Research Tools Division, with its largest award this year: \$373,557 over three years, with a promise to match further private contributions to the dictionary on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to \$186,779 (thus making the potential award as high as \$747,115). NEH support has increased the dictionary's output substantially over the past four years, and five more volumes are now in various stages of production.

During the past year, two faculty members have left our ranks: Wilferd Madelung has resigned to accept the Laudian Chair of Isla-

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mic Studies at Oxford; Simo Parpola has assumed the Professorship of Assyriology in the University of Helsinki. One new faculty appointment took effect: Walter Farber from the University of Munich came as Associate Professor of Assyriology.

Death has significantly diminished the ranks of senior personnel once associated with the Institute. In September 1979, George G. Cameron, a member of the Visiting Committee and formerly on the faculty of the Institute (1933-1948), died at the age of 74. George was an outstanding scholar in the field of ancient Iran and served for twenty-one years as Chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan. In October, Raymond A. Bowman, Professor Emeritus of Hebrew and Aramaic, died at the age of 76. An exceptional teacher for more than thirty years (1935-1969) and a pioneer in dealing with the Aramaic texts from Persepolis, he had served as the Chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations here from 1962 to 1968. In January 1980, Charles Breasted, eldest son of James Henry Breasted, died at the age of 82. He had served as primary executive administrator of the Institute under his father from 1927 to 1936.

We wish to acknowledge an uncommon debt of gratitude to the Breasted family, especially to Isabella Breasted and to James H. Breasted, Jr., for their gift of a large and splendid collection of materials connected with James H. Breasted, Sr., founder of the Institute. The materials include books, correspondence, diaries, field notebooks, photographs, and a wide assortment of memorabilia—many of considerable value to Egyptologists or to future historians of the Oriental Institute.

Over the past year, the Museum has made steady progress in renovating the Palestinian Gallery. The Volunteer Guides have added an educational enrichment program for primary-school children. The Suq is operating well with a new manager, Christine DerDerian.

A special word of thanks is due to our members and especially to our Visiting Committee. With your efforts and contributions, we have this year raised \$146,862, to which the National Endowment for the Humanities has added an equal amount, to benefit the Demotic Dictionary project, the Ancient Society and Economy project, the Hittite Dictionary, and the Turkish Archeological Salvage Expedition. We are particularly grateful to the Visiting Committee for sponsoring the dinner "Sand, Silt, and Sherds" for the benefit of the Turkish expedition in May.

D E D I C A T I O N

This past year the support of our members and friends has made it possible for us to continue research in many areas. We hope you will enjoy reading in the following pages about what your contributions have done.

August 6, 1980

John A. Brinkman

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Director