

Research Archives

Charles E. Jones

The major activity of the staff of the Research Archives this year has been to continue the recataloguing project which we began in December 1984. This project, which I introduced in my last annual report, has proceeded at about the pace I had expected, which is to say slowly. Nevertheless we have managed to add some fourteen thousand entries to the catalogue. We have made substantial headway in recataloguing several genres of books, notably our collections of dissertations, Hebrew and Russian titles, and series. In addition, new acquisitions are catalogued according to the new rules. To hold the rapidly expanding catalogue of the collection we purchased a sixty drawer card-catalogue cabinet which sits in the vestibule of the library. It now appears, as we expected, that we will need another sixty drawer unit in the near future.

Two projects have improved the physical appearance of the library this year. In March, we began the

badly needed restoration of the painted ceiling of the reading room. Erin McNamara of the Chicago restoration firm Finartizans expertly matched the colors and stenciling of the fresco and restored the large plaster patches which resulted from repairs due to leaks in the roof. My thanks to Barbara Hall for organizing this project. Last summer we removed the decaying curtains from the library windows and resurfaced the reading room tables, which over the years had acquired a less than desirable texture. The result appears to be quite satisfactory. A new photocopying machine, one from which we receive a share of the profits, has been installed in room 200. It continues to be used heavily by patrons of the Research Archives.

Acquisitions statistics for the past year are listed below.

An exact count of the pamphlet collection is not at present available because we are in the process of removing offprints which duplicate material in our bound volumes. I expect the total number of pam-

	May 1985–April 1986	Total Holdings
Monographs	744	8698
Series	126	3825
Journals	287	6800
Total	1157	19323
Pamphlets	325	

phlets to be reduced by more than two thousand.

Through the good offices of Robert Biggs and *JNES*, and Thomas Holland and the Publications Office, exchanges continue to be an important source of books for the Research Archives.

Among the many friends of the Research Archives who have donated books during the past year, I would like to single out the following:

Mrs. Michael B. Rowton, for the donation of the Assyriological Li-



brary of the late Professor Michael B. Rowton.

Mark Osgood, for the donation of his collection of books on Hittite and other Near Eastern languages.

Col. A.F.S. MacKenzie for the generous donation of his very substantial library.

Donations of books and journals of any kind, but particularly in Near Eastern studies, are a very important source of income, through sales to students and exchanges with other institutions.