

Tony J. Wilkinson

During late August and September **Tony J. Wilkinson** was occupied by fieldwork aimed at unraveling the archaeological landscape of the Balikh Valley, Syria (see separate report). This was followed, at the beginning of October, by the first stage of the new Amuq Valley Projects (see separate report), directed by Professor Aslihan Yener of the Oriental Institute.

Brief visits were also made to Syria, first in March 1996 as a lecturer on an Oriental Institute Travel Program tour. This was followed by a second trip to Syria in late April to attend a conference on the archaeology of the Syrian Jazira, at Deir ez-Zor on the Euphrates in southeastern Syria. A paper was delivered entitled "Reconstructing the Limit of Rain-fed Cultivation in the Jazira using Archaeological Data." The opportunity was taken after the conference to visit sites in the Khabur Valley, specifically Tells Mozan, Brak, and al-Beyda. The visit to the last named site, which also included a visit to the headquarters of the French survey of the Khabur Basin survey, provided a chance to assess the potential for future cooperative fieldwork around Tell al-Beyda.

Papers published or in press include: "Late Assyrian Settlement Geography in Upper Mesopotamia," in *Neo-Assyrian Geography*, edited by Mario Liverani; "Khanijdal: A Small Ubaid Site in Northern Iraq," to appear in *Iraq* 58 (1996); "Sabi Abyad, the Geomorphology of a Complex Landscape," to appear in 1996 in the second monograph on the archaeology of Sabi Abyad, Syria; and "Landscape Development," as part of the "Oriental Institute Amuq Valley Project, 1995" to appear in *Anatolica* 1996.

Outside lectures included: "Human Settlement and the Beginnings of Terraced Agriculture in Highland Yemen," in November 1995 at the Institute of Archaeology, London; "Demographic Trends from Archaeological Survey: Case Studies from the Levant and Near East," at the European Community Populous Conference, where he also participated as a discussant, at the University of Durham; "The History and Development of the Lake of Antioch," in February 1996 at the Midwest Branch of the American Oriental Society in the session to honor Michael Astour; "Crisis or Continuity: Population Trends, Food Production and Settlement in Bronze Age Upper Mesopotamia," on April 11, 1996 at Johns Hopkins University, on April 12, 1996 at the University of Pennsylvania, and on May 17, 1996 at the University of California-San Diego; "Landscape of

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Empires: Settlement and Countryside in Greater Mesopotamia during the Late Assyrian Period” also at San Diego but for the Archaeological Institute of America; and finally “Landscape Development in the Amuq Plain, Turkey” and “Field Methodologies for the Reconstruction of Ancient Regional Economies” in May 1996 at the University of California-Los Angeles.

Activities at the Oriental Institute have included the preparation for publication of the Oriental Institute’s Dhamar Project, the survey part of the Amuq project, and studies of ancient water use in the Balikh Valley, Syria. Fieldwork in Yemen also provided a sound background for a new course that was prepared and offered in the winter quarter under the auspices of Professor McGuire Gibson: “An Introduction to the Archaeology of Southern Arabia.” During the winter quarter, Wilkinson also taught a new Museum Education evening course concerning the archaeology of the Near Eastern landscape entitled “Lifelines of the City.”
