



# News & Notes

The Oriental Institute

No. 1: October 15, 1973

*Issued confidentially to members and friends*

*Not for publication*

To our members and friends:

This year we are experimenting with an expanded newsletter which will bring you not only letters from our archeologists in the field but also other news items which we hope will be of interest. Besides reporting on the Institute's research activities at home and abroad, we also plan to tell you occasionally about important new finds turning up in other excavations (or museums) and about significant new books and articles in periodicals. Staff members have also promised to provide from time to time short feature articles on such topics as "Babylonian Medicine." This new newsletter, entitled "News & Notes," will appear monthly from October through June.

In September, McGuire Gibson and his staff returned to dig at Nippur; and we hope to be receiving a report from them shortly. Helene Kantor and Pinhas Delougas (UCLA) are planning to resume excavations at Chogha Mish in December; and Robert Biggs has been discussing the possibility of mounting a joint expedition with members of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq at the site of Tell Abu Salabikh, which yielded so many important early Sumerian literary tablets in the middle 1960's.

Here at home, the Institute will miss the dedicated services of Ursula Schneider, our photographer for over thirty years, who retired on September 1. Her successor, Jean Grant, will begin work about the middle of this month. Another new face around the Oriental Institute is that of Barbara Hall, our conservationist, who comes to us from the British Museum. Miss Hall is busy at present supervising the installation of a conservation laboratory to begin systematic treatment of our many fragile antiquities which are suffering from the climatic effects of Chicago's damp weather.

On the first of October, the old Oriental Institute library quarters opened its doors to function as the new "Research Archives." The Archives boast an extensive collection of books on Egyptology, history, and archeology; and this collection is open to Institute members as well as to staff and students.

Annual membership cards are now being issued to Institute members. These cards will serve as identification for persons wishing to use the Research Archives or other Institute facilities. Your membership card is enclosed.

John A. Brinkman  
Director

*The Institute Building soon after it was built*





The Oriental Institute Museum Tour, visiting East and West Berlin, Leningrad, Moscow, Florence, Turin, Paris, London, and Oxford, will be May 2–23, 1974, at a cost of \$1575 (\$145 single supplement), which includes a \$100 tax deductible contribution to the Oriental Institute. A tour brochure is available on request.

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Members of the Oriental Institute may want to know more about the subjects associated with the Institute than can be included in our newsletters or the Annual Report. Without doubt the most important sources of information for both layman and scholar are periodicals: for the ordinary reader, because one convenient volume contains a wide variety of articles; for the specialist, because journals have the advantage over books in both speed and economy.

We therefore offer a discussion of some of the magazines and journals that our members might like to subscribe to, especially those dealing with the ancient Near East. There is not a large number of periodicals in this field, and those published in English represent but a small part. We describe some of those which appear regularly (omitting highly technical journals, organizations' newsletters, and irregular publications) in two categories — general magazines and scholarly journals.

Subscription information follows the descriptions of the periodicals. Please note that while these are the latest figures we have, they may not reflect recent price increases. Many of these publications are available to members of sponsoring organizations at a reduced cost.

The oldest of the three general periodicals we recommend is *The Biblical Archaeologist (BA)*. A sister publication of *BASOR* (see below), it covers the ancient Near East in accordance with its stated purpose of providing “readable, non-technical, yet thoroughly reliable accounts of archaeological discoveries as they relate to the Bible.” The editors have recently announced that they intend to offer “news of individual finds of outstanding importance” and “articles which will summarize the current state of knowledge in certain areas of major concern,” such as Ugaritic studies and the Dead Sea Scrolls. Typical of this policy was the post-humorous publication at the beginning of this year of a 60-page survey “From the Patriarchs to Moses” by the late dean of biblical archaeologists, William F. Albright. A series of anthologies, *The Biblical Archaeologist Readers*, has been published by Anchor Books demonstrating the wide scope of this magazine.

While *The Biblical Archaeologist* is small in format (5” x 8”, 40 pages), *Archaeology* usually covers about 80 *New Yorker*-size pages. This permits a balance of articles on “the antiquity of the world” — encompassing both Old World and New. Some recent titles are “The Arab-Iranian Gulf,” “The World of Aztec Sculpture,” “A Cargo of Phoenicio-Punic Figurines,” and “Serigraphy: Recording Ancient Paintings.” Drawings and photographs, many in full color, illustrate the articles. Reviews of recent books in archaeology appear in each issue.

To be savored for its appearance as well as for its contents, *Expedition: The Magazine of Archaeology/Anthropology* is published by the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania and deals primarily with its fieldwork. It exhibits almost aggressively modern design, which makes it easy and a pleasure to read, and which contrasts with the stodgy look such periodicals use to have. The title indicates that this magazine has the most varied content of the three; the emphasis seems to lie equally on the two fields mentioned. The past few issues have included “Recent Excavations in Jerusalem,” “How a Greek Artist Once Painted Himself into a Corner,” and a poem by anthropologist Loren Eiseley.

These three periodicals have been described in some detail because of their general scope and appeal. The journals of professional organizations and schools can be dealt with more summarily.

Some are devoted to a specific geographic area. *Iran, Iraq, Anatolian Studies (AS)* — for Turkey — the *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology (JEA)*, and the *Israel Exploration Journal (IEJ)* carry papers on the history, archaeology, and cul-

ture of their countries. *JEA* and *IEJ* deal strictly with the ancient phases of these countries, while the other journals occasionally print articles stretching into medieval or sometimes almost modern times. The *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* (*PEQ*) includes Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon; the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* (*BASOR*) adds Mesopotamia to these regions, but is restricted to ancient times. The *American Journal of Archaeology* (*AJA*) emphasizes the Classical world, but sometimes publishes articles on the Near East. Finally, the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (*JNES*), published by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago, covers all aspects of the history and culture of the Near East, ancient and modern, and includes many shorter reviews. It is probably the most useful journal to recommend to the Institute member interested in following closely the work of the Oriental Institute.

The Oriental Institute Library, 1932

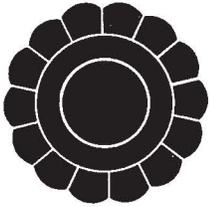


- AJA*: Quarterly: \$15:  
General Secretary  
Archaeological Institute of America  
260 West Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10013
- Archaeology*: Quarterly: \$8.50:  
Archaeology  
260 West Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10013
- AS*: Annual: \$10:  
The British Institute of Archaeology  
at Ankara  
140 Cromwell Road  
London SW7 4HE, England
- BA*: Quarterly: \$5:  
American Schools of Oriental Research  
126 Inman Street  
Cambridge, Mass. 02139
- BASOR*: Quarterly: \$6:  
American Schools of Oriental Research  
126 Inman Street  
Cambridge, Mass. 02139
- Expedition*: Quarterly: \$6.50:  
Publications Office  
University Museum  
33rd and Spruce Streets  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19174
- Iran*: Annual: \$12.50:  
The British Institute of Persian Studies  
c/o The British Academy  
Burlington House, Piccadilly  
London W1V 0NS, England
- Iraq*: Semiannual: \$8.25:  
British School of Archaeology in Iraq  
31-34 Gordon Square  
London WC1H 0PY, England
- IEJ*: Quarterly: \$8:  
Israel Exploration Society  
P.O. Box 7041  
Jerusalem, Israel
- JEA*: Annual: \$12.50:  
Honorable Treasurer of the Egypt  
Exploration Society  
3 Doughty Mews  
London WC1 N2PG, England
- JNES*: Quarterly: \$10:  
The University of Chicago Press  
5801 South Ellis Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60637
- PEQ*: Semiannual: \$10:  
Palestine Exploration Fund  
2 Hinde Mews  
London W1M 5RH, England

4 *Dr. Robert McC. Adams offers a report on the present state of the Iraq Surface Survey – Nippur Region.*

More than four years have elapsed since the last major phase of reconnaissance directed toward reconstructing ancient irrigation systems and patterns of urban settlement in Iraq, but an early resumption is now in prospect. Initial discussions were held with Iraqi authorities in March 1973, followed by a longer visit in August and September. Conditions were something less than ideal for fieldwork during the latter period (120° "shade" temperatures on a shadeless desert), but ten days or so of intensive survey helped to establish the framework for a major study next year that will complete our coverage of the remaining areas of arid, uncultivated steppe between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

It is important to move ahead with this without further delay. Innumerable small farmers with growing families nibble away at the remaining desert areas, while simultaneously there are vast schemes of state-sponsored drainage and land reclamation. These agencies soon will forever erase the rich traces of phase upon phase of ancient land use, exposed upon the plain surface by the abrasive action of the wind and heretofore unaffected by the rare camel train and passing bedouin. Of particular interest is an important watercourse of the fourth millennium B.C. whose meanders in a generally southeastward direction can be traced for many kilometers north and east of Nippur. It appears to be the major bed of the Euphrates of its time, but from its size one cannot even preclude the possibility that it might be the considerably larger Tigris. Such are the puzzles and temptations of working in a harsh landscape whose present emptiness belies the ancient prosperity it has seen and the massive, rapid, usually tragic changes it has undergone.



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