

MATTHEW W. STOLPER spent 1988 on a leave of absence supported by a Fellowship for University Teachers from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He began a monograph on the texts that he has identified since 1985 as parts of the Kasr archive, a tantalizing group of legal documents from fifth-century Babylon. Among them are the first Babylonian legal documents published in modern times, so the group provides a context for some of the earliest steps in Assyriology; at the same time, some of the texts involve a career administrator in the Achaemenid provincial administration, so the group provides a rare glimpse of the connections between traditional Babylonian commerce and Achaemenid imperial institutions. The largest part of the archive is in the Vorderasiatisches Museum in East Berlin, as yet unpublished, but 115 known fragments scattered among various European and American collections (see the *Oriental Institute Annual Report* for 1985-86) are the grounds for a preliminary study that will characterize the group and frame some of the historical issues connected with it. Stolper published a concise preliminary characterization of the archive in *American Journal of Archaeology* 92, and he made the dispersal and recovery of the component texts the topic of the tenth annual George C. Cameron Lecture at the University of Michigan in April, 1989 (a lecture delivered to a cheerful audience on the day after Michigan won the NCAA basketball tournament).

Stolper continued work on a series of articles on topics arising from other Achaemenid Babylonian business texts. "Some Ghost Facts from Achaemenid Babylonian Texts," *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 110, clears away a few "factoids," fact-like assertions that have found their way from the Assyriological literature into the scholarship of Achaemenid history. "The Governor of Babylon and Across-the-River in 486 B.C.," first presented as a paper at the 1988 meeting of the American Oriental Society in Chicago, and then expanded for publication in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 48, treats the history of the immense province that included Babylonia, Syria, and Palestine under a single administration during the early years of Achaemenid rule, and presents a text that extends the known history of the province by thirty years. "The *šaknu* of Nippur," *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 40, treats the integration of some Babylonian town and temple property into the Achaemenid system of taxation and control; it also observes the centennial of excavations at Nippur by presenting some new texts connected to known late Achaemenid archives from Nippur. "Registration and Taxation of Slave Sales in Late Achaemenid Babylonia," expanded from a presentation at the American Oriental Society (mentioned in the *Annual Report* for 1985-86) for publication in *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie* 79, treats the previously unknown Achaemenid precursors of the sales taxes and public registries that are documented in Hellenistic Babylonia. "Late Achaemenid Texts from Uruk and Larsa," to appear in *Baghdader Mitteilungen* 21, adds twenty new documents to the mere nine previously published legal texts from Uruk dated between Xerxes and Alexander. "More Babylonians at Ecbatana," in preparation for *Archäologische Mitteilungen aus Iran*, presents a

text written in Media but affiliated with the known archive of an important Babylonian business house of the fifth century.

Since returning from his leave of absence Stolper has resumed work with Charles E. Jones, collating the late Richard T. Hallock's transliterations of unpublished Elamite texts from the Persepolis Fortification. Other Elamite projects are encyclopedia entries on "Awan" (*Encyclopaedia Iranica*, III, fasc. 2) and "Mā-lāmir B. Philologisch" (*Reallexikon der Assyriologie*, VII, fasc. 3-4).