

## EDITORIAL

Sadly the School suffered in 1979 the loss of a number of its distinguished members, who were among those who pioneered its foundation and encouraged its progress over many years. In addition to Professor Sidney Smith, whose obituary we published in *Iraq* XLI (1979), part 2, we have to report the death of C. J. Edmonds, C.M.G., a long-serving member of Council and more recently Vice-President. He will be remembered especially for his linguistic and historical study of the Kurds. Brigadier Stephen Longrigg, O.B.E., died at Guildford, aged 86. He was a regular member of Council until two years ago, and his advice, based on long service in and of Iraq (1918–1937), was always much valued.

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Our Honorary Treasurer David Clarke died on 27th April, 1979. He had been an official of the Ottoman Bank in Iraq, and after his return to this country served the School for many years, first as Assistant Treasurer, and from 1975 as Honorary Treasurer.

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At the Annual General Meeting, which was held on 27th November, 1979, the Chairman presented the second Gertrude Bell Memorial Gold Medal to Professor Seton Lloyd, our President, in recognition of his distinguished services to Mesopotamian Archaeology. The Chairman paid a tribute to the President's work, and spoke of the many remarkable excavations with which his name had been associated. The first Medal was presented to the late Sir Max Mallowan.

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The post of Honorary Treasurer was filled by the election of John Springford, O.B.E. He became a good friend of the School during his service with the British Council in Iraq, and having now retired, he has been able to resume the connection in England. His advice and expertise will be much welcomed.

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Professor J. D. Evans, Director of the Institute of Archaeology, and Mr. C. B. F. Walker, Assistant Keeper of Western Asiatic Antiquities, were elected to serve on the Council.

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It has at last been possible to revive the post of Assistant Director to the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq. The School has appointed Dr. Michael Roaf to hold the post from October 1979. In addition to his archaeological experience in Iran and Bahrain, Dr. Roaf has been acting as Field Director for much of our work in the Jebel Hamrin area.

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At the Annual General Meeting, the Director, J. N. Postgate, lectured on "The excavations at Abu Salabikh and the Hamrin, 1978 and 1979". He spoke of a further busy year of excavations. His own work at Abu Salabikh 1978 will be reported in *Iraq XLII* (1980), part 2, and in the Autumn of 1979 he conducted a study season on site and built further rooms onto the dig house.

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The main efforts of the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq in 1979 continued to be concentrated in the Jebel Hamrin area. A summary of earlier work has already appeared in *Iraq XLI* (1979), part 2, along with a general report on the rescue work in the Jebel Hamrin basin.

With Dr. Michael Roaf as Field Director and R. G. Killick as Assistant, excavations were conducted from March–June, 1979 and again from November 1979–January 1980. Priority was given to completing the excavation of the large Late 'Ubaid house at the centre of Tell Madhhur of which an interesting plan has now been recovered. More 3rd millennium graves were encountered, some with equid skeletons, and more of the ED I village with its characteristic Scarlet Ware was discovered. Work was concluded at Tell Rubeidheh with the definition of the depth of the 'Ubaid deposit and the identification of at least three building levels. The site also yielded a fine variety of Uruk pottery and relatively rich animal bone remains. With this, our current round of fieldwork in the area is concluded, and it is expected to be flooded in 1981. For the future, a further rescue project at Haditha, below 'Ana on the Euphrates, is expected to engage our participation.

Currently, Mr. George Farrant is spending the Spring of 1980 completing the town plan of Tell Taya from surface survey.

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The Second International Symposium on Babylon, Assur and the Hamrin was organized by the Iraqi State Antiquities Organization in October 1979; Professor Wisemand and Dr. Sollberger attended by invitation and read papers.

Mrs. Joan Crowfoot Payne visited Baghdad to work on the flints from Abu Salabikh. Her report will appear in *Iraq XLII* (1980), part 2. Other visitors included: Mr. Robert Miller, to study the Hamrin flints; Miss Deborah Downs, to work on Abu Salabikh and Jebel Hamrin human bones; and Mrs. Ellen McAdam to work on Uruk pottery from Tell Rubeidheh and surface pottery from Abu Salabikh west mound.