

## EDITORIAL

This year two long-serving officers of the School have retired. Mrs Leri Glynn Davies was Assistant Secretary of the School from 1978 and has been Secretary since 1991. Mr George Warren has served as Treasurer since 1980. Their services to the School have been invaluable, we are extremely sorry to see them go and we wish them well.

We welcome Mrs Joan Porter MacIver, who has taken over the duties of Secretary. Mr Iain Cheyne has kindly agreed to be our Treasurer. To accompany these changes, we also have a new address. After many years under the umbrella of the Institute of Archaeology, we are now joining other Schools and Institutes at the British Academy. The details of our new premises are on the inside covers of this journal, together with our web-site and e-mail addresses.

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In the New Year's honours, Dr Jane Moon and Dr Robert Killick both received the Order of the British Empire for their work at the site of Saar in Bahrain. During their many years there, they have been responsible for raising local awareness of the importance of the archaeological remains.

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Professor Georgina Herrmann was able to go to Baghdad in April to work in the Iraq Museum. She was given every facility to study the ivories from Well AJ at Nimrud for a further volume of the catalogue of Nimrud ivories. She was also able to see around twenty-five ivories which were discovered in a fourth well recently excavated by Mr Muzahim Mahmud at Nimrud. Professor Herrmann reports that a volume of his excavations of the Royal Tombs at Nimrud is in press; it will be in Arabic and English and will include plans, lists, a full catalogue and illustrations in black and white and colour. She was also able to report that the Iraq Museum was reopened by the Iraqi President on 28 April after having been closed for ten years.

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The School has taken the first steps in setting up a research project on the Sumerian city of Umma, co-ordinated by Mr C. B. F. Walker. This will build on the extensive holdings of Umma tablets in the British Museum which are now being studied by Dr Farouk al-Rawi. It is hoped that this will be of assistance to a study of the tablets recently recovered in Iraq, both from controlled excavations at the site by the Iraq Directorate General of Antiquities and Heritage and from illicit robbing. It was hoped that Dr Mutawalli, who is now excavating at Umma, would be able to make a second visit to England to work on her material. Unfortunately, she was not able to obtain a visa.

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The School is still unable to undertake excavations in Iraq and has therefore continued to sponsor excavations in neighbouring countries. In November 1999, a joint project with University College London at Es-Sabiyah in Kuwait was co-directed by Dr Harriet Crawford and Dr Rob Carter. Dr Augusta McMahon (Cambridge University) co-directed excavations at Chagar Bazar in Syria from early March till mid-May 2000. This is a joint project with the Université de Liège and the Syrian Directorate General of Antiquities, and a report will appear in *Iraq* 63 (2001). Ms Helen McDonald, on behalf of the School, and Dr Geoff Emberling, for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, directed the excavations at Tell Brak from March to May 2000. Their report will also be published in *Iraq*.

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Individual research grants for 2000–2001 were awarded to Dr H. D. Baker for the copying and collating of Neo-Babylonian tablets in the British Museum from the archive of the Nappahu family at Babylon; to Professor Georgina Herrmann for her visit to Baghdad to study ivories from Nimrud; to Dr Erica Hunter for the translation of entries in the Iraq Museum catalogue

relating to Aramaic and Mandaic incantation bowls from Tell Dhuihi near Kish; to Dr John MacGinnis for his participation in the excavation of Neo-Assyrian levels at the site of Ziyaret in south-eastern Turkey; and to Mr Jonathan Taylor for a visit to the University Museum, Philadelphia, to work on Sumerian lexical texts.

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The following conferences are planned for 2001 under the sponsorship of the BSAI. A *Fifth Millennium Conference* is being jointly arranged by the Universities of Manchester and Liverpool and will take place at Liverpool on 16–18 November 2001. The British Museum will host a Nimrud conference on the 21–23 November 2001. An exhibition on Agatha Christie and the Orient will open at the British Museum on 7 November 2001 and will run until March 2002.

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At the Annual General Meeting on 8 December 1999, Dr Augusta McMahon gave a lecture entitled “We came back to Chagar Bazar: Renewed Excavations 1999”. On 9 March 2000, Dr Harriet Crawford lectured on “Seals and sealings from Saar, Bahrain”. The Bonham Carter Lecture this year was given on 22 June by Dr Peter M. M. G. Akkermans who spoke on “Assyria in Syria – The Middle Assyrian *dunnu* at Tell Sabi Abyad”. The lecture was preceded by our Annual Forum. The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the School will be held on 7 December 2000 at the British Academy and will be followed by a lecture by Ms Helen McDonald on “Recent Excavations at Tell Brak”.