

EDITORIAL

This issue of the journal is the first produced under the newly established Editorial Board. The Board provides a formal link to the journal's publisher, the British Institute for the Study of Iraq, reporting to the Institute's Publications Committee. It was established partly to fill the gap in editorial expertise that opened up on the retirement last year of the irreplaceable Dr Collon, and partly to broaden that expertise to cover more adequately the journal's declared interests. We hope to continue this process in due course with the appointment of an international advisory panel. The Editorial Board's current membership is shown on the inside back cover.

The editorial pages of this journal were once filled with news of the activities of the British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq, which went unreported elsewhere. Since the forced closure of the BAEI in 1990, the British School of Archaeology in Iraq and its successor society, the British Institute for the Study of Iraq, have had no formal presence in Baghdad, and the journal's annual editorial has been limited to summarizing the Institute's increasing activities in London. For some years these have been more fully reported in the Institute's biannual *Newsletter*, now in its twenty-eighth issue, and on its website, www.bisi.ac.uk. Consequently the Editorial Board has taken the decision to discontinue from next year the practice of prefacing this journal with editorial pages.

Obituaries, however, will still be published. It is with sadness that we follow this last editorial with notices of two good friends of British archaeology in Iraq. Dr Donny George and Mrs Rachel Maxwell-Hyslop did much between them to further the work of the Institute in Baghdad and London, and to maintain good relations between colleagues in Britain and Iraq.

A.R.G., M.J.S