

EDITORIAL

This issue of *Iraq* is one of two volumes produced simultaneously in honour of Professor David Hawkins, whose seventieth birthday falls on 11 September 2010. His long and distinguished service to this journal and its publisher, the British Institute for the Study of Iraq, is recorded in the dedication on the opposite page. The companion volume is entitled *ipamati kistamati pari tumatimis. Luwian and Hittite Studies Presented to J. David Hawkins on the Occasion of his 70th Birthday* (ed. Itamar Singer; Tel Aviv, 2010). Therein are a longer appreciation, a full list of Professor Hawkins' publications, and many more articles, prepared by colleagues working in the Hittite and Anatolian fields especially.

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Two years after the final withdrawal of British Academy funding, BISI is proud to continue its active programme of talks, events, research and publication, and to maintain its Visiting Scholars initiative in support of our Iraqi colleagues.

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This year's lecture programme focused on twentieth-century history and contemporary issues. On 4 February Dr Saad Eskander, Director of the Iraq National Library and Archive, gave a talk on "INLA at a time of National Crisis: Difficult Choices and Unanticipated Challenges". On 11 March Dr Priya Satia of Stanford University discussed "The Defence of Inhumanity: Air Control and the British Idea of Arabia". On 11 May Vernon Rapley, Detective Sergeant of the Metropolitan Police's Art and Antiquities Unit, gave an Appeal Lecture on "Iraq and Afghanistan: Criminal Benefit from Cultural Loss". On 17 June Professor Nadjie Al-Ali of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, gave the Institute's annual Bonham Carter lecture on "Women and Gender in Iraq: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives".

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The Development Committee has coordinated another very active programme this year. On 6 February the fifth Birkbeck College and British Institute for the Study of Iraq Mesopotamian Archaeology Study Day (co-sponsored by the Ancient Egypt and Middle East Society) was devoted to "Seven Years On: The Iraq National Museum, Iraq National Library and Archive & Cultural Heritage in Iraq". On 20 March BISI and the University of Glasgow's Department of Adult and Continuing Education held a day school on "Mesopotamia: Exploring Ancient Iraq". On 24 April the seventh Christianity in Iraq Seminar Day took place at the Brunei Gallery in London. Development grants were also awarded to the Imperial College Union Iraqi Society to support the "Second Iraqi Cultural Exhibition" and to Cornerhouse/Greater Manchester Arts Centre Limited for the "Contemporary Art Iraq Festival" series of events. Reports on all development grants appear in BISI newsletters and also available online at <http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq/newsletter.htm>.

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The BISI Appeal has enabled the visits of ten Iraqi scholars and visitors this year. BISI supported the attendance of three colleagues at the British Academy international conference "Rethinking the Middle East? Values, Interests, and Security Concerns in Western Policies toward Iraq and the Wider Region, 1918–2010" in London on 17–19 March. BISI also supported three Iraqi scholars to attend the 7th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (7ICAANE) in London on 12–16 April. Two archivists from the Iraq National Library and Archive (INLA) took part in an intensive training programme on digital archiving at the University of London Computer Centre in March 2010, co-sponsored by the British Council. In addition two individual scholars were supported under our Visiting Iraqi Scholarship programme.

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This year BISI has allocated research grants as follows: to Miss Helen Crossman for a "Contextual analysis of economic and social networks: the circulation of Bronze Age soft-stone artefacts in

Bahrain and Cyprus”; to Ms Sarah Cox for an “Analysis of copper base metalwork from Failaka island, Kuwait”; to Miss Vanessa Iaria for “Iraqi refugees’ repatriation from Syria and Jordan”; to Dr Martin Worthington to support a conference on “Decoding Gilgamesh: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Ancient Epic”; to Professor Nigel Ashton to support a conference on “Reappraising the Iran-Iraq War”; to Ms Ruth Horry for “Meanings of Mesopotamian sacrificial divination and the work of Morris Jastrow at the University of Pennsylvania”; to Dr John MacGinnis in support of the Ziyaret Tepe Archaeological Project. This year has also seen the first BISI Pilot Project Grant awarded to Dr Sabah Aldihisi for “The Documentation of the Mandaeen Rituals and Language”. Reports on all research grants appear in BISI newsletters, which is sent out to members of BISI and also available online at <http://www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq/newsletter.htm>.

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This year the Institute published the research of the British team within the modern excavations at Chagar Bazar as *Once There Was a Place: Settlement Archaeology at Chagar Bazar, 1999–2002* by Dr Augusta McMahon with C. Colantoni, J. Frane and A. Soltysiak. It also published a tribute to the memory of Dr J. A. Black, former Director of the British Archaeological Expedition to Iraq, BSAI’s presence in Baghdad. The book is entitled *Your Praise is Sweet – A Memorial Volume for Jeremy Black from Students, Colleagues and Friends*, edited by Dr Heather D. Baker, Dr Eleanor Robson and Dr Gábor Zólyomi. Details of these and the Institute’s other publications are given in the concluding pages. Two more volumes are expected to appear soon: a report on the excavations at Umm Dabaghiyah by Dr Stuart Campbell and the *Archaeological Atlas of Samarra* (Samarra Studies II) by Professor Alastair Northedge and Dr Derek Kennet. Publication grants were awarded to Dr Joan Oates to assist with preparation of the third volume in the Tell Brak excavations series and to Dr Wendy Matthews for the initiative “Urban landscapes and life-histories: web-publication of microstratigraphic sequences in the Sumerian city of Abu Salabikh, Iraq”.

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This year Dr Dominique Collon retires as co-editor of *Iraq*. BISI would like to thank her for her many years of tireless service in this role. Thirty-two of the journal’s seventy-two issues have benefited from her knowledge, industry and wise good instinct. Her contribution to BSAI and BISI in this and other roles has been invaluable. From the next issue Dr Michael Seymour joins Professor George as the journal’s co-editor.

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At its 76th Annual General Meeting on 10 December 2009 the British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial) awarded the Gertrude Bell Memorial Gold Medal to Dr Lamia al-Gailani Werr. Dr al-Gailani Werr is only the fifth recipient since the first award in 1976 to Professor Sir Max Mallowan. The medal is awarded for outstanding services to Mesopotamian archaeology. The current Chairman of BISI, Professor Roger Matthews, cited in his presentation speech Dr al-Gailani Werr’s unceasing efforts and invaluable advice and energies in sustaining academic and personal links between scholars in Britain and Iraq.