

EDITORIAL

It is with a sense of the deepest regret and sorrow that we record the death of C. J. Gadd, a former Editor of this Journal. A notice about him appears on the page following this Editorial. We rejoice that it was possible to present him at the Annual General Meeting with a bound copy of *IRAQ* Vol. XXXI which was dedicated to him in its entirety.

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Last year the main effort of the School in Baghdad was directed to the work of publication, for no excavation was possible either at Tell Rimah or at Choga Mami. A break in excavations can, however, be of the greatest value from time to time in order to enable the participants to catch up with the task of collating and publishing the results of their work. The account published by David Oates in this number of his fifth season at Rimah is a testimonial to the way in which the School has scrupulously carried out its obligation to record detailed reports of each season's work with a minimum of delay. The same compliment may be paid to Joan Oates in respect of her work at Choga Mami. The only excavations that took place last year were carried out from December 1968 to February 1969 by Mr. Julian Reade at Tell Taya in the Jebel Sinjar. An account of the first season's work was published in *IRAQ* Vol. XXX (1968).

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We take the opportunity of giving our warm congratulations to David Oates on his appointment to the Chair of Western Asiatic Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London in succession to Seton Lloyd who is now Professor Emeritus. The departure from Iraq of Professor Oates, where he has been resident Director of the School in Baghdad since 1965, will be much regretted by many friends and colleagues both in Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq, a country to which, like many who have served there, he has become devoted. Nonetheless his connection will not be severed, as it is hoped that both he and Mrs. Oates will return for further excavations in the years to come. The School owes him a great debt for his capable and wise administration of its affairs in Iraq and for the distinguished service which he has rendered to scholarship as an authority on Mesopotamian history and archaeology. His book entitled, *Studies in the Ancient History of Northern Iraq* published by the

British Academy in 1968, has been recognised by scholars as an original and invaluable contribution which ranges over historical and geographical fields that deserve much wider recognition than they have received in the past.

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It is no less pleasant to extend our warm congratulations to Professor Oates's successor, Mrs. Diana Helbaek, a distinguished historian who succeeds to the Directorship of the School in Baghdad. Mrs. Helbaek, as well as being an accomplished digger well versed in modern techniques, has written with distinction on neolithic and pre-neolithic archaeology, subjects for which Iraq offers much scope. Mrs. Helbaek is also a true friend of the Arabs, and we extend to her our cordial good wishes for a fruitful and happy term of office.