



LADY MALLOWAN



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1988 has seen two birthdays. Lady Mallowan, our President, has completed her eightieth, and our Chairman, Professor Wiseman, his seventieth year. Both have served the School tirelessly in various capacities for forty of its fifty-six years, a record that only Sir Max Mallowan surpassed.

Barbara Parker, as she then was, became the first Secretary/Librarian and, as such, the first and only resident officer of the School in Baghdad for twelve years. Her first instruction from the Director, Max Mallowan, was to go and build a dig house at Nimrud, which he had chosen as the School's main site for excavation. She built the house and maintained it in good order for many years to come, a home to which those who worked at Nimrud look back with fond, if sometimes fantastic, memories. Barbara worked at Nimrud both as a photographer and an epigraphist, taking also an especial interest in the seals. Her photographs, taken and developed under primitive conditions, provided excellent illustrations for Mallowan's Nimrud reports, including *Nimrud and its Remains*. As an Assyriologist she has published a considerable series of economic texts, illuminating their interpretation by her own knowledge of modern rural society and economy which, until the onset of mechanisation, had changed little in four thousand years.

In the 1950's Barbara's main contribution to the School's, as opposed to the Nimrud expedition's, welfare was her inimitable running of our house in Baghdad. Her kindness and hospitality to visiting scholars and students, often new to Iraq, are unforgettable. The School's first Land Rover had to be taken to the north when all roads out of Baghdad were cut by the floods of 1954. Barbara persuaded the Iraqi State Railways to add a flat car to the passenger train to Mosul. Her excellent personal relations with Iraqis, and particularly with our colleagues in the Directorate General of Antiquities, contributed to the solution of many such problems, and did much to create the climate of mutual trust and cooperation which has so greatly enhanced the work of the School—now the British Archaeological Expedition in Iraq—over the past forty years.

In 1961 she returned to the Institute of Archaeology as Lecturer in Mesopotamian Archaeology, but has visited Iraq on many occasions, and was an invaluable and a most welcome member of the expedition at Tell al Rimah for three of our six seasons there, publishing the Mitanni and Middle Assyrian seals. During the last three decades she has also been an energetic member of our Council and Executive Committee, where her intimate knowledge of both academic and domestic matters in Baghdad has notably aided our discussions. Since her election to succeed Lord Trevelyan in 1983, she had been one of our most active Presidents.

Donald Wiseman's service to the School has covered many different fields. As a member of the staff of the Western Asiatic Department of the British Museum from 1948 to 1961 he served as epigraphist at Nimrud for three seasons, and after his appointment to the Chair of Assyriology at London University as its first incumbent in 1961, he found time to serve in the same capacity at Tell al Rimah in 1966. His publications include the *Alalakh Tablets*, *The Vassal Treaties of Esarhaddon*, two books on Western Asiatic seals in the British Museum, and numerous preliminary reports on the tablets from the excavations on which he worked. The great virtue, for which

we must be grateful to him, is prompt publication, making preliminary copies and studies of his material available to others. There are many and notorious examples of scholars who lack this generous quality.

He has served as Editor of *Iraq* for twenty-five years, from 1953 to 1978, as Joint Director of the School from 1961 to 1965, and as our Chairman since 1970. It is perhaps for Donald's devoted work behind the scenes that we should be most grateful to him. He has presided over our Council and Executive Committee meetings with a kindly—sometimes perhaps too tolerant—hand, but few realise the day by day complexities of the School's affairs, the negotiations with and the preparation of reports for the British Academy, the resolution of difficulties in Baghdad which require immediate action and the Chairman's authority. Still less known is the support he has constantly given to young scholars, Assyriologists and archaeologists alike. We are deeply in his debt on many counts.

We hope that Barbara's and Donald's valuable contributions to the work of the School will continue for many years to come. We thank them sincerely and wish them well.

D. O.