

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

One way the academic community pays tribute to a distinguished senior member is by publishing a volume of studies, a *Festschrift*, by his colleagues on subjects which have been of particular interest to him during his career, on a significant birthday. Six Oriental Institute faculty members (and at least as many other scholars who have been associated with the Institute in the past) contributed studies to the Samuel Noah Kramer Anniversary Volume, published this year, which honors their friend and former colleague, who was associated with the Assyrian Dictionary from 1932 to 1942, and who returned for the opening Members' Lecture in autumn 1975. The volume was planned for his seventy-fifth birthday, September 28, 1972, but owing to the vagaries of modern publishing technology, it has only just appeared.

R. D. Biggs contributed "Ennanatum I of Lagash and Ur-Lamma of Umma: A New Text." J. A. Brinkman edited fourteen inscriptions, ranging in date from the twenty-fourth through the early fourth centuries B.C., for his article "Cuneiform Texts in the St. Louis Public

Library." Miguel Civil discussed "The Song of the Plowing Oxen," a Sumerian literary composition, and I. J. Gelb presented a "Quantitative Evaluation of Slavery and Serfdom" in ancient Mesopotamia. Harry Hoffner studied "Enki's Command to Atrahasis," and J. Renger's brief contribution was "The Daughter of Urbaba: Some Thoughts on the Succession to the Throne during the Second Dynasty of Lagash."

In addition to some traveling, Klaus Baer this year reworked Egyptian chronology for his history class and in the process discovered some evidence corroborating Mr. Wentze's work—including a hitherto unnoticed regnal year 20 for Thutmose IV. Mr. Baer lectured in Toronto on Egyptian historiography and at Brandeis on "The Ninth Dynasty." He spent a week in New York studying Coptic manuscripts at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as a large manuscript of the Book of the Dead and a curious later religious manuscript containing a melange of text genres.

Robert D. Biggs has completed work on the inscriptions found at al-Hiba (ancient Lagash), Iraq, in the 1968/69 and 1970/71 seasons when he was epigrapher for the joint expedition of the Metropolitan Museum of Art—Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. The inscriptions include important new historical and literary texts from about 2500 B.C. He continues his work on the cache of letters found at Nippur in the twelfth season.

By mid-April only two of the manuscripts of reports on the Iraq Jarmo Project were missing, keeping Robert J. Braidwood from finishing his introduction to the publication. Meanwhile his report on the joint Istanbul-Chicago Çayönü excavations is delayed by a printers' strike in Turkey. Besides preparing these two large undertakings for print, Mr. Braidwood lectured at Dartmouth, Indiana, and Purdue.

Last summer John A. Brinkman completed the first volume of his work *Materials and Studies for Kassite History*. The 750-page manuscript took almost seven years to write, and its preparation took the author to more than a dozen museums on three continents to examine over twelve thousand Babylonian tablets written between 1600 and 1150 B.C. This first volume contains a catalogue of all dated texts of the period, preceded by a lengthy introduction revising the chronology of the dynasty and discussing the typology of the textual evidence. It should be published this autumn. Mr. Brinkman's contribution on "Mesopotamian Chronology of the Historical Period" was

completely revised for the second (posthumous) edition of A. Leo Oppenheim's *Ancient Mesopotamia*, scheduled to appear in late 1976. For the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* Mr. Brinkman prepared five articles on Babylonian and Assyrian history, including a detailed treatment of the political and cultural history of the Second Dynasty of Isin (1157-1026 B.C.)

Miguel Civil's articles include the publication of several Sumerian texts and lexicographical notes, and the catalogue of tablets from the eleventh Nippur season. His catalogue of the twelfth season is finished, and the thirteenth is in progress, as are several articles on selected texts from Nippur, two new Sumerian inventories of literary tablets, and lexicographic studies.

Besides his work on ancient society, this year I. J. Gelb has published two articles, "Records, Writing, and Decipherment," and "Homo Ludens in Mesopotamia." In addition, a volume comprising eleven of Gelb's articles on socio-economic history translated into Hungarian was published this year. This is a significant event, marking the first time that Western research in the field has been made readily available to scholars behind the Iron Curtain.

Shortly after returning to Chicago from Nippur, McGuire Gibson took off again for Saudi Arabia, where he participated in a surface survey of the Eastern Province. He was also occupied with editing the proceedings of last year's symposium on seals and sealing in the ancient Near East.

Gene Gragg has been working principally on his Oromo dictionary project. He reported on the project to a congress of Cushitic specialists in Paris in September, and to the North American Conference on Afroasiatic Linguistics in March. He has published an edition of a magic prayer in Ge'ez (classical Ethiopic) contained in a New Testament manuscript in the Goodspeed Collection (Department of Special Collections, Joseph Regenstein Library), and is correcting the proofs of a grammatical outline of Oromo, to appear as a chapter in a book on the non-Semitic languages of Ethiopia scheduled for publication this summer.

This year Janet H. Johnson has completed her manuscript on the Demotic verbal system and has written an introductory grammar, with exercises, to be used in the beginning Demotic class. She is currently working on a corpus of late Roman period magical texts written in Demotic and has just begun working, in conjunction with a student, on fragments (now in Berlin) of a Demotic version of the famous tale of Horus and Seth.

In the past year Wilferd Madelung cooperated with David Pingree in preparing an edition and study of several historical horoscopes from an Arabic work on astrology by al-Qaṣṣrānī, an author writing in the Caspian provinces of Iran in the ninth century A.D. The horoscopes complement the information of contemporary chronicles and numismatic evidence, and thus contribute to our knowledge of the history of the local dynasties of Ṭabaristān and Gorgān. He is preparing an edition of two philosophical treatises in Arabic by Abu l-Barakāt al-Baghdādī (d. 1152), a Jewish philosopher and court physician in Baghdad converted to Islam in his later life. The two treatises throw new light on his career and on some aspects of his philosophy, which diverged in many points from the prevalent peripatetic school doctrine. He is also preparing a study of the philosophy and theology of ‘Abd al-Razzāq Lāhījī, a Persian author of the 17th century belonging to the school of the famous Molla Ṣadrā Shīrāzī.

Erica Reiner spent part of the summer in the British Museum, thanks to her John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, continuing her work on planetary omens. While in Europe she attended the Recontre Assyriologique Internationale in Göttingen, Germany, and read a paper on this subject. In the latter part of the summer she was joined in Chicago by David Pingree for further work on the interpretation, philological and astronomical, of these texts. The first fascicle of Babylonian Planetary Omens, *The Venus Tablet of Ammiṣaduqa*, appeared in December in the series Bibliotheca Mesopotamica. A second fascicle is in an advanced stage of preparation, and other fascicles are being readied. Miss Reiner collaborated with Mr. Pingree and with Hermann Hunger on two related articles, and submitted a chapter on Assyro-Babylonian literature for the *Neues Handbuch der Literaturwissenschaft*. In May, Miss Reiner was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Since the last annual report Johannes Renger has published articles on the hierarchical structure of the priesthood at Babylonian temples and on the personnel structure of the royal household in Mesopotamia during the late third and early second millennium B.C. In a short essay he argues that the "Laws of Hammurapi" did not constitute promulgated law but are reflections of the king's decisions concerning his subjects.

Lawrence Stager is revising his Ph.D. dissertation on desert agriculture for publication this winter, a synthetic study of frontier settlements along the eastern border of Judah in the late 7th-early 6th centuries B.C. In September he explored a system of sluice gates for floodwater farming that ran from Qumran to Ein Feshkah. These in-

stallations were similar to ones found in the Buqe'ah Valley west of the Dead Sea. Apparently much of the western littoral of the Dead Sea was transformed into date-palm plantations. In addition, the kingdom of Judah might also have had a monopoly on the salt trade. Thus the soldier-farmers stationed in the Buqe'ah settlements provided a protective link between Jerusalem and its Dead Sea commercial interests in that period. Mr. Stager is also working on a monograph describing the achievements until now of the Punic Project of which he is Field Director.

In addition to supervising the work of the Epigraphic Survey, Kent R. Weeks continued his work on two long-term projects, a study of Egyptian prehistory and an analysis of the Papyrus Ebers. For the first of these he has been preparing a study of the so-called Dynastic Race hypothesis and examining the ways in which the changing intellectual climate of Europe influenced the interpretation of predynastic Egyptian materials. For the second, he has concentrated on the orthography of materia medica in P. Ebers and now believes that its many orthographic variations will provide a substantial clue to the sources from which the various prescriptions were drawn. These projects and a report on the proposed archeological map of Thebes are the subjects of several papers presented throughout the year.

During the course of the academic year Edward F. Wentz published an article, "Thutmose III's Accession and the Beginnings of the New Kingdom," where a higher chronology for the first half of the Eighteenth Dynasty is suggested. With Mr. Charles Van Siclen as co-author, an article proposing a revision of the chronology of the entire New Kingdom is in press. The span of time separating the death of Thutmose III in 1450 B.C. and the accession of Ramesses II in 1279 B.C. is expanded in this chronology through lengthening the reigns of both Amenhotep II and Thutmose IV beyond the figures now accepted by most historians. Currently Mr. Wentz is pursuing his research into the kings and queens of the New Kingdom, preparing an essay on the genealogies of the royal families and the ages of kings and queens at death, as determined independently of pathologists' estimates based on examination of the royal mummies. Mr. Wentz has been asked to write some essays on the subject of Tutankhamun and his culture for the upcoming museum exhibit; and since this young pharaoh hardly emerges as a dynamic personality from the surviving documentation, he has attempted to interpret his significance from the point of view of Egyptian religious thought and the kingship as an institution expressive of the corporate personality of the society. He acknowledges that some may not be entirely happy with his negative evaluation of the

preceding Amarna Period and his praise of King Tutankhamun, whom he regards as more of a concept than a personality.

Research on Louis Žabkar's Semna South Project is virtually complete, and his report is almost ready to be published. With the cooperation of the Sudanese office of antiquities, he was able to examine the last of the finds from the site, and is urging the last of his colleagues to submit their manuscripts. Thus the project is nearly done.