

THE AUTHORS

SAMUEL NOAH KRAMER ("A Sumerian Document with Microscopic Cuneiform"), Curator of the Tablet Collection in the University Museum and Clark Research Professor of Assyriology at the University of Pennsylvania, is the foremost authority on Sumerian literary works. His study of the clay tablets on which this literature is written has taken him to the museums in Iraq, Turkey, and Russia, as well as to many in this country. From these scattered tablets and fragments he has been able to piece together such poems as *Gilgamesh and the Huluppa Tree*, *Lamentation over the Destruction of Ur*, *Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta*.

ROBERT H. DYSON, JR. ("Digging in Iran: Hasanlu, 1958"), anthropologist and archaeologist, worked in the Southwest and Northeast United States between 1947 and 1950; was a Junior Fellow of the Society of Fellows, Harvard University from 1951 to 1954 and during that time did field work in South Africa, Jordan, and Iraq. He came to the University Museum in 1954 where he is the Assistant Curator of the Near Eastern Section. He was the Museum's representative on the Danish Expedition to Bahrain in the Persian Gulf and will be leaving shortly for his fourth season as Field Director of the Hasanlu Expedition.

EDITH PORADA ("The Hasanlu Bowl") obtained her degree in Vienna with a dissertation on early Mesopotamian seals. These small engraved seal stones, which are the only type of material recovered from all periods in western Asia and which form the framework for the major art works of the area, have remained her especial interest. Among her books dealing with them are *Seal Impressions of Nuzi*, *A Corpus of Ancient Near Eastern Seals in North American Collections*, and *Mesopotamian Art in Cylinder Seals*. While her particular field is the ancient Near East, Dr. Porada knows well the art styles of many other areas and times. She has taught history of art at Queens College and is at present a member of the Department of Fine Arts and Archaeology of Columbia University.

CARLETON S. COON ("Clever People, These Armenians"), Curator of General Ethnology in the Museum and Professor of Anthropology in the University of Pennsylvania since 1948, received his Ph.D. degree from Harvard University and was a professor of anthropology there from 1934 to 1948. His interests and field work have ranged from physical anthropology to ethnography to archaeology, and from North Africa, the Balkans, Ethiopia, Arabia, Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, Central Africa, to the Far East and India, the locale of his latest trip. At the present moment, Dr. Coon is working on a book entitled *The Races of the World*; he has recently published *The Story of Man*, *The Seven Caves*, and *Caravan*.

ELIZABETH K. RALPH ("Double Trouble") graduated from Wellesley in 1942. For the next seven years, she worked for an electronics firm where her duties included control of electroplating and heat treating, design and supervision of electrical inspection equipment, development of electronic apparatus, and miscellaneous production engineering. The following two years she studied at the University of Pennsylvania for her M.S. degree in Physics. Since 1951 she has been on the staff of the University of Pennsylvania, first as research assistant and now as research associate in physics, in charge of constructing and operating the C-14 Laboratory.

MARIANNE L. STOLLER ("Te-moana-nui-o-Kiwa") did field work in New Zealand and the Society Islands in 1951-53 and was an assistant in the American Section of the University Museum 1954-56. She is a Fellow of the American Association of University Women and a Fellow of the Social Science Research Council, and is now working on her Ph.D. dissertation in the Department of Anthropology of the University of Pennsylvania. Her subject is early European contacts in some of the Islands of Polynesia and in the course of her work she deals extensively with the reports of the early voyages.

SUGGESTED READING

A SUMERIAN DOCUMENT

SAMUEL N. KRAMER, *From the Tablets of Sumer*. Falcon's Wing Press. Indian Hills, Colorado. 1956.
SAMUEL N. KRAMER, *The Sumerians*. *Scientific American*. October, 1957.

HASANLU 1958 and THE HASANLU BOWL

HENRI FRANKFORT, *The Art and Architecture of the Ancient Orient*. Pelican History of Art. 1955.
ROMAN GHIRSHMAN, *Iran*. Penguin Books. 1954.
C. F. A. SCHAEFFER, *Stratigraphie comparee de l'Asie Occidentale*. Oxford University Press. 1948.

TE-MOANA-NUI-O-KIWA

DOUGLAS L. OLIVER, *The Pacific Islands*. Harvard University Press. Cambridge. 1952.
SIR PETER H. BUCK (Te Rangi Hiroa), *Vikings of the Sunrise*. F. A. Stokes Co. New York. 1938.
SIR ARTHUR GRIMBLE, *We Chose the Islands*. William Morrow & Co. New York. 1952.
ROBERT GIBBINGS, *Over the Reefs and Far Away*. E. P. Dutton & Co. New York. 1948.

EXPEDITION NEWS

TIKAL, GUATEMALA

Mr. Shook, Field Director of the Tikal Expedition, has just made an exciting discovery—a stela inscribed with a date thirty-six years earlier than that of Stela 9 at Uaxactun, until now the earliest known Maya inscription. Stela 9 was discovered in 1916. Our stela also antedates the Leyden Plate which is supposed to have been made at Tikal.

The Maya date of this new stela is 8.12.14.8.15, the equivalent of A.D. 291. Only the upper part of the stela was found, evidently not in its original position, and not associated with any particular building. Much of the carved surface, including a human figure, was badly eroded, but fortunately the Initial Series glyphs are in excellent condition.

GORDION, TURKEY

The Expedition began work early in March, with Dr. Young as Field Director and Ellen Kohler as his assistant. They will be joined by Machteld Mellink of the faculty of Bryn Mawr College as soon as classes there are over, and will continue excavating through the summer. They plan this year to dig down further into the large mound below the 8th century B.C. level where they had been working, in order to examine even earlier phases of Phrygian development.

EL-JIB, JORDAN

From May 25th to August 8th, the Joint Expedition of this Museum and the Church Divinity School of the Pacific will continue the excavations at El-Jib which has been identified as the Biblical city of Gibeon. This is the third Jordan Expedition; as in 1956 and 1957, Dr. James B. Pritchard will be the Field Director.

What in the World?

See page 39.

Did you recognize these sand dunes in the Libyan desert? Or were you as far off in your identification as those of us who suggested elephant foot prints, or a bucket of wet plaster, or a corroded bronze plaque enlarged a hundred times?

We are indebted to the Aero Service Corporation of Philadelphia for this photograph which they took from an altitude of 31,680 feet with a special camera equipped with a six-inch lens. The dunes range in height from 300 to 600 feet. This eighty-mile area lies about 200 miles southwest of the Sebha Oasis on the edge of the Rocky Desert.

The Aero Service Corporation made this photograph during a recent photo-mapping and geophysical survey for two major oil companies, who use such photos for reconnaissance purposes. Today, aerial photography is also playing an important part in archaeological work, both in locating sites and in obtaining an over-all picture of how they were laid out. Such a picture of Hasanlu in Iran appears on page 5.