

terpart of Noah in the Flood stories. It has long been recognized as one of the oldest sites in Babylonia and gives promise of yielding interesting objects and important scientific data.

The first report from Dr. Schmidt, written after less than a fortnight's work at the site [Plate V], states that already a rich find of tablets has been made in the first square investigated by the excavators, and that burials have been found with alabaster and pottery vessels apparently dating from the first half of the third millennium B.C. Since the present issue of the *Bulletin* is the last until the autumn, it is gratifying to be able to report the initial success of this new and interesting project.

*Developments  
at Kirkuk*

**T**HE most interesting inscription yet found at Kirkuk has recently been reported by Mr. R. F. S. Starr, the expedition's director. It came from the area which is being dug straight down for the purpose of obtaining a cross-section of all periods in the mound's history. This 'deep room' is now down to the eleventh level and virgin soil may be expected very soon. From one of the lower levels came a tablet on which is inscribed a map showing two mountain ranges between which flow two rivers, the larger of which has three mouths flowing into the sea or some other large body of water. The directions, north, south, and so forth, are marked on the edges of the tablet, and many place names,

most of them unfamiliar, are given. One of these names is Ibla; this may be the same place as an ancient city in Syria known as the Fortress of Ibla, but this is by no means sure.

In the temple area, the fourth stratum, mentioned last month, continues to be most interesting in plan. The cella, or principal room, has now been cleared completely; it is in remarkable condition and is most impressive. At the end of the room is a raised pilaster in front of which is a raised platform flanked by two others. In the center of the room is a large mud-brick hearth about three feet square; here was found a large jar bearing incised and raised figures of animals. On the lower step of the altar were found the fragments of a pottery model of a house, intended either as a votive or a censer, while another broken house model was found nearby.

This is the last report on Kirkuk that will appear in the *Bulletin*, unless some unusual discovery warrants mention next November. It has been decided that, during the four years that have been spent in excavating, sufficient information and material objects have been obtained to afford a fairly complete knowledge of the cultures of different periods that are represented at this site. The work, therefore, will not be continued next year. The results of these excavations conducted by the Museum jointly with Harvard University and the American School of Oriental Research, Bagdad, may be considered as an important contribution to our

knowledge of the ancient world. Particularly complete and illuminating is that phase dealing with the Hurrian city of Nuzi which has afforded so much insight into the life and culture of the people who lived there thirty-five hundred years ago.

*Excavations  
at Meydûm*

**T**HE Museum's expedition at Meydûm, Egypt, under the direction of Mr. Alan Rowe, has entered upon its second season and work has been in progress for some time. Meydûm is the site, about fifty miles south of Cairo, of the Fourth Dynasty pyramid of Seneferu which rises in several stages to a present height of about two hundred and fifty feet above the surrounding plain.

Last year our expedition made notable progress: the pyramid passages and chambers were entirely cleared and three sides of the exterior of the pyramid were partially cleared; the pyramid temple, a small structure built against the east face of the pyramid, was thoroughly examined; and the causeway, leading from the temple to another temple (not yet found) in the valley below, was excavated for its entire length. In addition to this, important discoveries were made in connection with the construction and burials of the large mastabah just to the northeast of the pyramid [Plate VII], and various tombs of all periods were also examined in different parts of the expedition's concession. A complete report of last year's work on the pyramid, the temple, and the causeway, will be published in the next number of the *Museum Journal*.