

This special issue of *Expedition* is in honor of the publication of *Ur Excavations (U.E.)* volume VII and the completion of fifty years of work on the material remains excavated at Ur. U.E. VII, devoted to the Old Babylonian Period at Ur and edited by T. C. Mitchell for the British Museum (the British Museum and the University Museum was each responsible for editing half of the volumes) was published late in 1976, exactly fifty years after the publication of U.E. I, devoted to the material from al-'Ubaid, which appeared in 1927.

Ur was excavated in a joint expedition by the British Museum and the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, under the direction of C. L. (later Sir Leonard) Woolley, in a series of thirteen annual campaigns, from 1922 to 1934. These excavations have now been published in a series of ten volumes, some of which appeared during Woolley's lifetime, while others, though based largely on manuscript left by Woolley, have been published subsequent to his death in 1960 (for an appreciation of Woolley's work, see the obituary by Sir Max Mallowan written for *The London Times* and reprinted in *Expedition*, 3/1 [1960], 25-28). The cuneiform tablets found at Ur appear in a separate series of volumes, known as *Ur Excavations Texts* or *U.E.T.*, and are still in the course of publication.

This issue of *Expedition* deals with the actual organization of the joint expedition through extracts from letters in the archives of the University Museum, with some problems in the interpretation of the Royal Cemetery, the discovery of that cemetery being the event which made Ur famous, and with the Sumerian literary texts found at Ur. A subsequent issue of *Expedition* will deal with other aspects of the material from Ur.

UR EXCAVATIONS

- I. *Al-'Ubaid*, by H. R. Hall and C. L. Woolley (1927)
- II. *The Royal Cemetery*, by C. L. Woolley and others, 2 Vols. (1934)
- III. *Archaic Seal Impressions*, by L. Legrain and Sir Leonard Woolley (1936)
- IV. *The Early Periods*, by Sir Leonard Woolley (1956)
- V. *The Ziggurat and Its Surroundings*, by Sir Leonard Woolley (1939)
- VI. *The Ur III Period*, by Sir Leonard Woolley (1974)
- VII. *The Old Babylonian Period*, by Sir Leonard Woolley and Sir Max Mallowan (1976)
- VIII. *The Kassite Period and the Period of the Assyrian Kings*, by Sir Leonard Woolley (1965)
- IX. *The Neo-Babylonian and Persian Periods*, by Sir Leonard Woolley and M. E. L. Mallowan (1962)
- X. *Seal Cylinders*, by L. Legrain and Sir Leonard Woolley (1951)

UR EXCAVATIONS: TEXTS

- I. *Royal Inscriptions*, by C. J. Gadd and L. Legrain, 2 Vols. (1928)
- II. *Archaic Texts*, by E. Burrows (1935)
- III. *Business Documents of the Third Dynasty of Ur*, by L. Legrain, 2 Vols. (1937, 1947)
- IV. *Business Documents of the Neo-Babylonian Period*, by H. H. Figulla (1949)
- V. *Letters and Documents of the Old Babylonian Period*, by H. H. Figulla and W. J. Martin (1953)
- VI. *Literary Texts*
 - Part I, by C. J. Gadd and S. N. Kramer (1963)
 - Part II, by C. J. Gadd and S. N. Kramer (1966)
 - Part III, by S. N. Kramer and A. Shaffer (in preparation)
- VII. *Middle Babylonian Legal Documents, and other Texts*, by O. R. Gurney (1974)
- VIII. *Royal Inscriptions, Part II*, by E. Sollberger (1965)
- IX. *Economic Texts from the Third Dynasty*, by Darlene Loding (1976)