Memories such as these underscore the special value of the Inland Delta mounds to the urban anthropologist. Jennie emerged because an environment of extreme plenty lacked certain critical necessities—an interconnecting parallel with early urban Mesopotamia (Redman 1978:225-26, 231-4). These mounds also provide general lessons, possibly of wide applicability, for understanding urban evolution. For example, archaeologists working in Mesopotamia recognize a concentration of activities in the period of Early Dynastic Small dispersed settlement expanded in number, then rapidly concentrated, or implored, around one locality (Redman 1978:253-4). The center of implosion eventually fused to become a true, integrated city-state. For anyone familiar with that process, the analogy with the clustering principle in the Inland Niger Delta is remarkable. Likewise, Chinese archaeologists writing about Shang and Chou capitals of the Bronze Age remark on the concentration of the royal residences of small, discrete artisan hamlets or communities (Chang 1974). Can we see in this pattern a period when clustering was tolerated, but political centralization was fast crystallizing? Evidence of an indigenous urbanization which evolved close to the frontier between history and prehistory and for which oral traditions penetrate deep into prehistory should be invaluable for the comparative study of urban civilizations. As the forgotten telling of Mals become better known, their contribution to an understanding of Indigenous urban beginnings will be considerable.

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**Volunteers**

ROBERT H. DYSON, JR.

The many volunteers who participate in the wide range of activities of the University Museum form an indispensable resource in carrying out the Museum’s dual mission of research and public education. Their tasks have included workshops, free-rooms, archives, installations, computerizing the inventory, typing, filing, drawing, stringing beads, reorganizing collections, guiding visitors, and visiting schools on our behalf.

**MOBILE GUIDES**


Beginning with this issue of Expedition and once a year hereafter, we should like to recognize all those who provide their time and effort as part-time volunteers in the Museum. In this first public appreciation we wish to mention Craig Biddle, Douglas Gould, Virginia Beggs and the late Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Bransh, who after many years recently moved on to Volunteer Emeritus status. The Museum is greatly indebted to them for their years of dedicated service.

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