

LO, THE ANCIENT SUMERIANS *The Nippur Expedition*

Creators of the first city-states, the Sumerians are the earliest representatives of high civilization in the Land of the Two Rivers. In 1955-56 the Institute's Sumerologists were again in the field, excavating at Nippur, in lower Iraq. The expedition was conducted jointly with the American Schools of Oriental Research. Under an overburden as much as 30 feet deep, we have found one of the largest temples ever built by the Sumerians, dedicated to Inanna, goddess of war and love, and belonging to about 2000 B.C. To date only half of the structure has been laid bare.

Important finds of objects, of inscribed clay tablets, and especially of bronze statuettes were made in the course of the excavations. The statuettes had been laid in boxes under the walls of the temple as foundation deposits. They represent the Sumerian kings Ur-Nammu and Shulgi, who founded the temple, carrying the first basket of earth from the excavation. (See Cover.)

With me as members of the staff were Professor Albrecht Goetze (Yale), Dr. Vaughn Crawford (Yale), Donald Hansen (Harvard Fellow), Professor Thorkild Jacobsen (Oriental Institute).

R. C. HAINES, *Field Director*