

# Director's Report

The Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia Project has been in gestation for many years; the appearance of this publication is a fitting indicator that it is now fully born. Indeed, officially it began in the spring of 1981 with the award of a major editorial grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to the University of Toronto for this project. A general description of the project and its purpose will be found elsewhere in this publication. It is the purpose of this report to bring readers up to date year by year on the progress of RIM.

Since this is the first issue of the Annual Review of the RIM Project it is most appropriate here to express our thanks to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the University of Toronto not only for funding the project but also for the constructive encouragement by officers of both institutions in creating this research endeavour. We all look forward to a long and productive association.

The research of the project has been actively under way for some time; details of the structure and methods will be found in the Editorial Manual, copies of which are available from the Project Headquarters. For the Assyrian Periods, the preliminary editions and collations for the first volume are complete and work has begun on preparation of the final editions. Preliminary editions for the first volumes to be published in both the Early Periods (volume IV: Old Babylonian) and the Babylonian Periods (volume I: Kassite) are in progress. Besides issuing regular volumes of editions in these three main series, the Project will publish an occasional series called 'Studies.' The first volume of this will contain a catalogue and edition of the royal inscriptions on clay cones from Assur now in Istanbul. This work is now ready for press.

A main prerequisite of publishing standard and complete editions of royal inscriptions is the collecting of inscriptions. For this purpose a number of cataloguing projects have been begun. The largest undertakings involve the royal inscriptions in the British Museum and the royal inscriptions from Assur. In addition the project staff has been actively cataloguing inscriptions at the Royal Ontario Museum, McGill University, the University of Laval (Quebec), the Australian Institute of Archaeology, Laurier House (Ottawa), the National Postal Museum, and the National Museum of Man. Some of these inscriptions appear in this publication. The Project's resources are at the disposal of any authorities who would value co-operation in cataloguing their holdings.

The RIM Project is using computer facilities to the full. A UNIX Computer System has been purchased and is running efficiently. Transliterations of texts are normally entered into the computer system as soon as work begins on them. Editorial changes can be made as often as required and print-outs of any edited material can be obtained at short notice. Most of us on the research staff had initial doubts about the use of the computer, but I think it is safe to say that we have all come to recognize its extreme usefulness.

With regard to publication the RIM Project now has a preliminary understanding with the University of Toronto Press. The project has purchased a Compugraphic Photocompositor, which allows it to prepare its own camera-ready copy. This procedure is not only extremely inexpensive but also highly accurate. We anticipate that the University of Toronto Press will work with the camera-ready copy as our publisher, and that the cost of books to readers will be as low as possible.

It has been a very busy and productive year and I look forward to an even more productive year in terms of publication for 1983/84.