



After arriving at the Institute in January, THOMAS MCCLELLAN has spent much of his time and research on the second millennium B.C. of el-Qitar on the Euphrates River in north Syria where he has directed three seasons of excavations. With the support of the National Geographic Society, a fourth transitional season was fielded during August and September. Although the University of Melbourne sold the Institute the camp equipment in Syria, it has been necessary to begin reassembling surveying, photographic, and computer equipment in Chicago. It has been particularly difficult to convert our excellent CAD files (not a dictionary! but computer aided drafting) from Melbourne's Intergraph system to something compatible, affordable and understandable to an archaeologist. Transporting the excavation catalogs to compatible systems here would have been easier except for a myriad of options: micros or mainframes, unix, superwyllbur, chip, pc/dos, Macintosh, pc/at, or clones.

Two articles on el-Qitar, which had been in preparation prior to arriving in Chicago, were completed. A third preliminary report appears in the 1986 volume of *Abr Nahrain*, and a summary article in the October issue of the new journal, *National Geographic Research*. Issues that continue to attract attention are construction techniques in public architecture, defensive systems and urban design of fortresses during the

Middle and Late Bronze Ages, relative and absolute chronology of north Syrian ceramic and artifact assemblages, and the place of el-Qitar in the international power politics along the Euphrates River. The field season was concerned with the continued development of a ceramic typology, and the counting and classification of thousands of pieces of pottery from previous seasons, and with an on-the-spot review of stratigraphic and architectural problems.

Activities unrelated to el-Qitar include a review of a monograph on Tell el-Far'ah (N), a biblical site in Palestine. Preparing teaching materials has led to a heightened appreciation of the legendary Oriental Institute archives.

