



Most of **DONALD WHITCOMB**'s time during the past year was spent working on the Aqaba excavations, for which he held a major field season (sponsored by the Oriental Insti-

tute and funded by the Oriental Institute, National Geographic Society, and U.S. Agency for International Development) in the fall (see separate report). In the spring he visited the excavations which were continuing under the direction of John Meloy. These excavations, which have been honored by a royal visit from King Hussein, have produced vast amounts of information on early Islamic archaeology and promise more exciting architectural discoveries this next year.

The publications on Aqaba range from excavation reports, in the *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* for 1987 and 1988, to specific studies such as "Evidence of the Umayyad period from the Aqaba excavations;" "Coptic glazed Ceramics from the excavations at Aqaba, Jordan," to appear in the next *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*; and "Mahesh ware: Evidence of early Abbasid occupation from southern Jordan." More general studies have been "Reassessing the Archaeology of Jordan of the Abbasid period" (presented to the IV^e congrès sur l'histoire et l'archéologie de Jordanie in Lyon, France) and "Early Islamic Cities: Evidence from the Aqaba and Istakhr Excavations" (presented to the First Joint Archaeological Congress in Baltimore). Earlier articles on Islamic archaeology which have appeared this year include studies on Khirbet al-Mafjar (in modern Israel), on Aden and the Hadhramaut (in a festschrift for Marny Golding), and on southern Iran ("Bushire and the Angali Canal," published in *Mesopotamia*). His joint article with Janet H. Johnson on "A Royal Head from Luxor" has appeared in the festschrift for Helene J. Kantor.