

Robert Biggs, continuing his long-term interest in the third millennium site of Abu Salabikh in Iraq, is collaborating with J.N. Postgate in publishing the texts which have been discovered at Abu Salabikh since the publication of their previous joint article in 1978. For several years he has been working on administrative documents from private collections and small institutional collections which date to the Ur III period (ca. 2000 B.C.). A number of these documents have now been published in *Acta Sumerologica*, with Richard Zettler, now at The University Museum, Philadelphia, as co-author. In a volume honoring Åke Sjöberg, Biggs published a literary text in Old Akkadian, the language of the Akkadian period. The text was excavated by The Oriental Institute at the site of Umm al-Hafriyat in 1977. While it is often said that the traditions of the "evil eye" were widespread in ancient Mesopotamia, this is in fact not the case. This text, however, has one of the earliest references to an "evil eye stone." In connection with his work on Babylonian potency incantations and rituals to update his monograph on the subject (1967), he will spend part of September 1990 at the British Museum to work on recently identified texts of this genre.

In addition to his own scholarly activities, Biggs is now in his twentieth year as editor of *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*. Since 1985, he has been president of the Chicago Society of the Archaeological Institute of America.