

**Thomas A. Holland** spent two weeks in Syria during October 1990 as a visiting scholar on the University of Chicago/University of Damascus exchange program. He traveled with Donald Whitcomb, who was also participating in the same program. During his visit, Tom gave a lecture on excavation progress at Tell es-Sweyhat for some 200 students in the department of ancient history at Damascus University. During the trip, a number of archaeological sites were visited of both earlier and later periods. After an inspection tour of Sweyhat, Holland and Whitcomb journeyed further north up the east bank of the Euphrates to see the work being conducted by Anne Porter at Tell Banat on behalf of Tom McClellan's Chicago Euphrates Project in the Tishreen Dam flood zone. This was an exciting visit as a building under excavation at Banat had in situ finds of the late third millennium B.C., which had direct parallels with material previously excavated at Sweyhat. Other trips included visits to the German excavations at Tell Bia in Raqqa and Rasafah, located between Raqqa and Tell el-Kowm, a previous Oriental Institute project, as well as a meeting with Paolo Matthiae at Ebla (Tell Mardikh). In looking for prospective Islamic sites for future excavations, one of the sites examined was Qinnisrin (ancient Chalcis), located southwest of Aleppo. Many new contacts were made with faculty of the University of Damascus and old friendships were renewed with members of Syria's Antiquities departments in Damascus, Aleppo, and Raqqa.

Holland made a number of contributions to *Old Babylonian Public Buildings in the Diyala Region* (Oriental Institute Publications, Vol. 98) in two of the ten chapters and in five appendices dealing with the ancient sites of Ishchali and Khafajah excavated in the 1930s by the Oriental Institute. He also was instrumental in obtaining the "lost" 300 unbound text and plates volumes of James Henry Breasted's *The Edwin Smith Surgical Papyrus* (Oriental Institute Publications, Vols. 3 and 4) from Oxford University Press and wrote a new foreword for its reissue during the forthcoming centennial year of the University of Chicago.

In June 1991, Holland's 1988 three-year appointment as Research Associate of The University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania in the Near East Section expired and he was reappointed through June 30, 1993.

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