

'The aerial photographs, those showing the physical types of each tribe, and the ethnographic ones—among which those showing the Yawalapiti village and the details of the Naravute house deserve special notice—are very valuable.

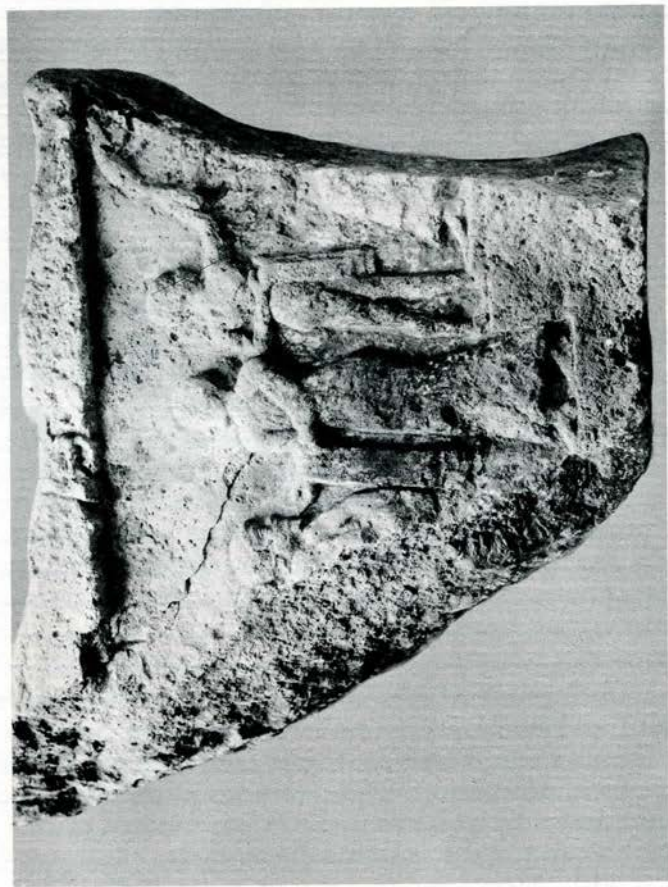
'Your study would have been indeed appreciated at the 25th International Congress of Americanists at La Plata as the greatest novelty of South America.

'I anticipate my sincere and enthusiastic felicitations for the certain success of your future researches.'

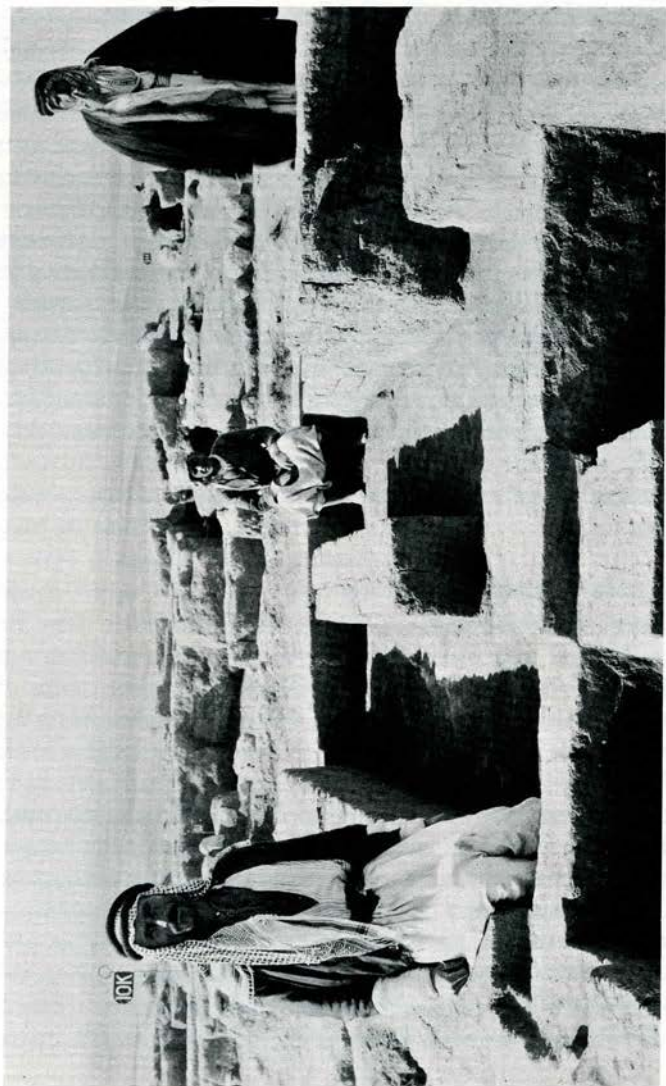
*The Joint
Expedition to Ur*

THE most important single object found at Ur during the season now closed is a considerable fragment [Plate V] of the Stela of Ur-Nammu, the founder of the Third Dynasty of Ur who largely remodelled the Ziggurat in the form in which we know it. Unquestionably the outstanding monument so far found at Ur, the Stela of Ur-Nammu records the achievements of this great Sumerian king. The various scenes depicted on it have been described before (*Museum Journal*, March 1927) and the stela itself, with the various fragments assembled as accurately as may be, has for some time been on display in the Museum. It is our good fortune to be awarded the recently found fragment, which upon its arrival here will be fitted into the reconstructed whole. This fragment seems to belong either to the bottom or to the middle register of the reverse face. It depicts the king (whose head and one arm are preserved) coming before a god, a seated figure on a raised base (only the feet, part of the skirt, and part of the base remaining), while between them are two priests, one of whom has a fly whisk and the other a folded cloth.

Towards the end of the season a deep pit was excavated close to the royal tombs. Here were found first a dozen inscribed tablets and numerous fragments, and over a hundred seal-impressions. The tablets, of archaic period, are most valuable for the study



FRAGMENT OF THE STELA OF UR-NAMMU, FROM UR, IRAQ



THE TEMPLE OF STRATUM IX, TEPE GAWRA, IRAQ

of the development of cuneiform script, while the seal-impressions are of many varieties. At a lower level in the pit over a hundred and thirty graves were found, many of them belonging to the Jemdet Nasr period—so-called after a site near Kish in Mesopotamia—and others with pottery of somewhat later date. The sequence is much more interesting than an unmixed Jemdet Nasr period cemetery would be, and the finding of some twenty skulls sufficiently preserved for study will add considerably to the material of the period available for anthropological research. Notable among the various objects found in the graves was the large number of stone vessels; for the most part these were plain, but one small white limestone cup was decorated with a row of lions and bulls carved in relief, the first example of this *genre* that we can date, and date fairly accurately, to an early period.

The Assyrian Expedition

THE main feature of the recent season at Tell Billa, according to Mr. Charles Bache's final report, was a street flanked on both sides with large stones and with an open drain in the center into which emptied feeder drains from the buildings. These buildings are entirely private dwellings, each with their street door having a sill of stone slightly higher than the large stones edging the street. Leading from the door, each house has a small vestibule from which one passes either to the main chamber of the dwelling or to an open court.

All courts are paved, usually with baked-brick, and around the base of the walls of the courts are base-boards of one row of baked brick set on edge, making an effective protection against seepage and consequent destruction by water of the lower courses of the *libn* (mud-brick) walls. The builders of the period, the Assyrians of the Middle Empire, must be congratulated on their mastery of the difficult art of *libn* construction. The kitchens of the dwellings were all exposed to the sky, as in present-day