

hung like tapestries against the sun-dried mud-bricks. Masses of smashed pottery littered the floors. Several hearths and a bread oven were well preserved. In one hearth even the andirons that held the cooking pots were still in place. All signs indicate that the archaeologists that the building had probably been a large private house or *palazzo* in the Mesopotamian style, with long narrow rooms parallel to slightly larger and wider ones.

Other levels and areas of excavations for Period III reveal remains of village houses, workshops, small streets and alleys. A main street is lined by houses built on massive stone foundations.

SECOND EXPEDITION

Another expedition from the Royal Ontario Museum, headed by Dr. Louis D. Levine, Assistant Curator of the Museum's West Asian Department, will begin excavations at the nearby site of Seh Gabi ("Three Sickles"), 15 kilometers from Godin. Here material from Periods VI and VII (about 6000-3500 B.C.) is close to the surface. Similar material exists at Godin, but to unearth it the archaeologists would have to dig to a depth of 700 feet.

The archaeologists are not sure what to expect from the earliest level of occupation (Period VII), but they do know what they are likely to find from Period VI at Seh Gabi. The material from this age relates to that found from the Mediterranean coast to the southern tip of Saudi Arabia and to the borders of Afghanistan. The major characteristic linking the settlements is pottery painted with geometric designs. The Iranian versions often have stylized animal designs as well. The culture is known as Ubaid, which is the name of the site where the material was first found.

Because excavations are still in process, the material has not yet been fully analyzed. However, there are hints among the Median material that might substantiate a Biblical passage which tells of the King of Assyria exiling the people of Israel to Assyrian territories, which included the towns of Media (*II Kings 18: 9-11*). Recent finds indicate the possibility that sometime during the late eighth century B.C., certain new forms of pottery were introduced to Media. These bear a strong resemblance to forms known from the Kingdom of Israel just slightly before this time. If future data can establish the case with greater certainty, the ROM team may be able to demonstrate that part of Israel was indeed taken in exile to Media.

One rainy day, Dr. Young and Dr. Levine visited a neighbouring village to investigate a "stone" buried in the mud, which the workmen had spoken about. The stone turned out to be a stele, an inscribed monument, erected by Sargon II "the great king, the mighty king, king of Assyria", who had held sway over all Babylonia westward to the border of Egypt and north to the mountains of what is now Turkey. After having conquered Samaria, the capital city of the Kingdom of Israel and exiling its popu-

lation to Media, Sargon set up a monument in the district of his glory and the glory of his gods. The stele, which has been dated to 716 B.C., contains a portrait of Sargon on one side and a 75-line Babylonian inscription on the reverse.

MIME THEATRE PREMIERE

The world première of *The Lamplighter*, by Alex Nagy, will be performed by the Centre Studio at the National Arts Centre on April 29. The production, directed by Adrian Pecknold, artistic director of this mime troupe, will run until May 15. Mr. Nagy also designed the production.

Despite the fact that mime is one of the most demanding of theatre arts, the Centre Studio, Canada's first professional mime company, has received much acclaim since it was founded at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, in 1969.

"We saw a work of a very high order," wrote Christopher Dafoe of the *Vancouver Sun*, and Gordon Legge of the *Calgary Herald* said in his review: "The performance left you with the feeling that everybody should have the opportunity to watch them." Gretchen Pierce wrote in the *Mail Star* of Halifax: "Their goal - entertainment - is always surpassed."

Mr. Pecknold and his company - Harro Maskow, George Stanislav and Margaret Lamarre, will also be touring schools in the Ottawa region with their program of VISUAL DELIGHTS, under the auspices of the Youth Programming Department of the National Arts Centre.

CANADA-MEXICO AIR PACT EXPANDED

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp and the Minister of Transport, Mr. Don Jamieson, announced recently that the existing bilateral air agreement between Canada and Mexico had been amended through an exchange of notes in Mexico City between the Mexican Minister for External Affairs, His Excellency Emilio O. Rabasa and the Canadian Ambassador, Mr. S.F. Rae. The amendments were negotiated in Mexico City in November 1970.

Under the revised bilateral air agreement, new traffic points have been added, including Edmonton and Winnipeg in Canada and, in Mexico, Acapulco and certain other points on the Pacific coast, and three points in the Yucatan area. Also, more frequencies will be available on the services operated between the two countries.

Mr. Sharp and Mr. Jamieson expressed their satisfaction with the new arrangement which will permit a further expansion in air services between Mexico and Canada and thus serve to strengthen the close and friendly relations that already exist between the two countries.