

The rest of the inscription relates to a work done under the Deacon Alexander, the facing with stones of the groundwork of some monument.

An inscription found at Ayûn, in Nabatea, mentions an exactly similar work employing even the same word ἐπικακόθη, meaning "has been faced." The modern Arabic term Belâteh, meaning "to pave with flags of stone," is in common use among the Arabs. The inscription is dated of the year 600, in the month Peritios (February), dating from a local era much used at Gaza, and employed in many other inscriptions of that place.

It is possible that the date may be read of the year 640. In the first case, the date  $\overline{\text{XM}}$ , where the M is not a numerical figure, but the initial of the word *μήνας* = month.

In the latter case, the superimposed line would extend over the  $\overline{\text{XM}}$ , forming one date.

As there is no sign of this horizontal bar this must remain an open question for the present.

M. Ganneau also remarks on the peculiar form of the Alpha in 'Αλεξάνδρον and in διακονου.

H. H. K.

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## THE GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE EXPLORATION OF PALESTINE.

WE have received from Herr Baedeker the first number of the Journal of the new German Association, with a copy of their rules.

The Journal opens with a preface written by Professor E. Kautzsch, in which the writer, after thanking the supporters of the undertaking, and explaining the necessity of establishing a German Society for the Exploration of Palestine, gives a sketch of the origin of the new Association.

It was in the summer of the year 1876 that Dr. Zimmermann, Dr. Socin, and Professor Kautzsch met together to consult on the best way of founding such a society. It seemed to them that the co-operation of influential men might be best obtained by personal and individual effort in introducing the subject by letter. This was accordingly done. The answers received proved more encouraging than was at first anticipated. A year was spent in preliminary arrangements, and on September 28th, 1877, the Society was at last definitely constituted. At a meeting held for the purpose a General Committee was elected, rules and statutes were read and approved, and an Executive Committee was chosen from the general body.

The following is a list of the General Committee:—Baron von Alten, Herr Karl Baedeker, Dr. A. Berliner, Dr. A. Brüll; Herr Brüning, German Consul-General in Syria; Dr. F. Delitzsch, Dr. O. Fraas, Rev.

C. Furrer, Dr. J. Gildemeister, Herr Guthe, Dr. E. Kautzsch, Dr. O. Kersten, Dr. H. Kiepert, Prof. A. W. Koch, Field-Marshal Count von Moltke; Freiherr von Münchhausen, German Consul in Jerusalem; Dr. F. W. M. Philippi, Rev. D. Reinicke, Dr. C. Sandreczki, Herr C. Schick, Dr. A. Socin, Dr. F. A. Strauss, Dr. Ph. Wolff, Dr. C. Zimmermann.

It will be remarked that the list is a tolerably representative one. It includes, besides the honoured name of Von Moltke, those of many travellers and writers on Syria familiar to the readers of the *Quarterly Statement*, such as Freiherr von Münchhausen, German Consul in Jerusalem, Dr. Sandreczki, Herr Schick, Dr. Socin, and Dr. Zimmermann, besides other names familiar to those who read German contributions to Biblical illustration, such as Von Alten, Baedeker, Kiepert, Fraas, &c.

The Executive Committee consists of:—Herr H. Guthe, Dr. E. Kautzsch, Dr. O. Kersten, Dr. Albert Socin, Dr. C. Zimmermann.

Herr Carl Baedeker is publisher and treasurer. Dr. Kautzsch is editor. There are at present about 186 members.

The rules state that the object of the Society is to promote the scientific exploration of Palestine in all branches of science, and to create a more general interest in the work.

The object of the Society is to be attained by:—

1. The publication of a Journal.
2. Scientific research in Palestine itself.

The Journal is to appear quarterly, or, in double parts, half-yearly. Its contents are to be:—

1. Scientific discussions on topographical, ethnographical, natural history, historical and archæological questions connected with the exploration of Palestine and the neighbouring countries so long as they promote a knowledge of the Bible.

2. Summaries and reviews of home and foreign literature bearing on the subject.

3. Statistical and political information on the present state of modern Palestine.

Scientific research in Palestine itself will be accomplished:—

1. By union with Germans settled in Palestine to obtain the benefit of their services in carrying out the objects of the Society.

2. By urging travellers in Palestine to take a scientific interest in certain definite questions.

3. By the accumulation of means for independent expeditions to Palestine in the name and at the cost of the Society.

Members of the Society to subscribe ten marks (10s.) and receive the Journal of the Palestine Association gratis. Larger subscriptions are much wished for to enable independent expeditions to be sent out.

The business of the Society to be managed by a Committee of at least eighteen members. For all important business, and especially for the expenditure of money, except office and correspondence expenses, a resolution of the General Committee is necessary. The conduct of current work and the execution of the resolution of the General

Committee are entrusted to an Executive Committee of five members. The responsible editor is necessarily a member of the Executive Committee.

The officers of the Society perform their duties gratis, and office and correspondence expenses are charged to the funds of the Society. The editor only is to receive remuneration for his trouble, the amount to be fixed by the first Ordinary General Meeting.

The Society holds a General Meeting at least every other year, if convenient, in connection with the German Oriental Society. Members present at the meeting have the power, by a majority of two-thirds, of passing resolutions which are binding on other members of the Society. The General Meeting appoints Members of the General and Executive Committees.

Leipzig is selected as the home of the Society and the place of publication of the Journal. The editor is not obliged to live in Leipzig.

The Executive Committee publish a statement of the business and of the accounts in the first number of the Journal in each year. Accounts to be audited by two auditors, selected from the General Committee by the Executive Committee.

Subscriptions to be paid, free of charge, to the Treasurer of the Society.

As regards communications to the Journal, preference will be given to original matter from Palestine itself, as well as to unedited records of pilgrimages, and notes from works on Palestine that are little known or not easily accessible. The secondary matter will consist of memoirs on topography, natural history, ethnography, statistics, numismatics, and inscriptions.

Great stress is laid on the effort to make the Journal scientific rather than popular, and the chief aim of the Society is to obtain for means the support of a German expedition to Palestine. Members are requested to use their best efforts to obtain subscribers.

A short note draws attention to the great importance of a correct transliteration of modern Arabic names for the use of those who do not know that language, and a list of equivalents for Arabic letters is given.

Herr Schick contributes a paper on some recently-discovered graves near Jerusalem and on the ruins at the north-west angle of the city.

1. A little below the aqueduct from Solomon's pools, on the slope of the Hill of Evil Counsel, and about 335 metres south-west of the modern Aceldama, a tomb was discovered which presents some peculiarities. A flight of nine broad steps leads down to a chamber, the walls and vaulting of which are of masonry. In the face of the chamber there is an opening 0.54 m. wide and 0.61 m. high, closed by a stone slab or plug kept in position by a stone roller 1.10 m. long and 0.70 m. diameter. From the opening two steps lead down to the floor of the tomb chamber, which is rock-hewn and contains 9 kokim.

2. About 200 m. north of this grave is another, hewn out of the rock

which appears never to have been completed. The arrangement of the kokim, as shown in the plan and section, is somewhat peculiar.

3. Another tomb at Khirbet Sabha, near the aqueduct from Solomon's pools, before reaching Sur Baher, is of somewhat novel construction. Nine steps lead down to a vaulted chamber of masonry, whence a small opening provided with a stone door gives access to the tomb chamber. On either side of the doorway is a "kok" in masonry; on the west side are eight kokim in two tiers of four each, also of masonry; on the east are eight masonry kokim in two tiers, and behind these five kokim cut out of the rock; on the north side two masonry, and behind them four rock-hewn kokim.

A somewhat similar arrangement of masonry kokim is to be found in the so-called tomb of St. John in Samaria.

Herr Schick, in another paper on Ancient Remains in the North-West City Wall of Jerusalem, describes traces of an older wall than the present, and shows that the existing city wall, at several points, is built within the older one. He then argues that the third wall of ancient Jerusalem followed the course of these remains, and supports his argument by the fact, pointed out by Consul Rosen, that beyond this limit the red virgin soil is found. An interesting description is given of the recent discoveries at Goliath's Castle, of the form of the ditch in front of the city wall, and the various ruins and fragments of masonry which have been uncovered in this locality. Herr Schick is of opinion that the Tower Psephinus stood on the ground now occupied by a small mosque, and he ascribes some portions of Goliath's Castle to a period as early as that of the kings of Judah. The paper is illustrated by plans and sections, and draws attention to some points not hitherto noticed.

The first number of the Journal closes with a very valuable article by Professor Socin on recent Palestine literature, which is almost exhaustive of the subject and of the greatest use for purposes of reference.

It is needless to say that we wish every success to the new Society, and that we shall send them all our publications. The Fund, indeed, has become a subscribing member. Should any of our subscribers wish to join the German Association, their names will be received by the Secretary at Charing Cross, or may be sent direct to Herr Baedeker, Leipzig.

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