

THE
PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

DIED

On the 2nd November, 1922,

GEORGE BUCHANAN GRAY,
D.D., D.Litt., Mansfield College, Oxford.

OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

It is with profound regret that we have to announce the tragically sudden death of Dr. George Buchanan Gray, for many years a member of the Executive Committee, and Acting-Chairman of the Fund, during the illness of the late Dr. L. W. King, from October, 1918, until the appointment of Dr. Hogarth in October of the following year. A short obituary appears on another page (p. 9).

An old and valued friend of the Fund passed away on September 8th, in the person of Mr. W. H. Rylands, F.S.A. He joined the Committee in 1890, and devoted considerable time and labour to the unique plates in the *Painted Tombs in the Necropolis of Marissa*, published by the Fund in 1905. He was well-known as a keen archaeologist, a pioneer in the study of Hittite hieroglyphs, a prominent Freemason, a member of the Royal Irish Academy, and Chairman of the Harleian. He was for many years secretary of the Society of Biblical Archaeology, and the whole life and soul of that most valuable but now unhappily defunct body.

We have also to record the death of Dr. James Hastings, of the General Committee, editor of the *Expository Times*, and famous throughout the biblical world for the many great series of biblical, theological and expository works which he successfully edited. In his *Encyclopædia of Religion and Ethics*, above all, he was responsible for a really unique collection of material, an unprecedented store-house of data and discussion which makes a landmark in the study of the religion, ethics and philosophy of mankind.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

WE publish in this issue an article on the "Hill Ophel" which calls attention to the great and unique offer which the Government of Palestine is making to archaeologists. For biblical students, no such opportunity has ever been open of investigating a site of such assured interest. While other nations are invited to co-operate, and it is hoped that in Great Britain other Societies will assist, the British interests will be officially represented by the Palestine Exploration Fund—if they can rise to their opportunities. Certain Regulations have been drawn up by the Department of Antiquities for the conduct of the work. These have been submitted to the co-operating bodies for their criticism, and we have to point out that there is one Article which is certain to be adopted, namely, that no work will be permitted at this wonderful site until a sum of *at least* £5,000 is guaranteed for the work of excavation. The members of the Executive Committee are agreed that this proposal is a wise one, as nothing would be more unfortunate than to irretrievably damage the site by a scrappy and slipshod excavation. This would be entirely harmful and would destroy priceless archaeological evidence. Probably at least this sum will be needed *annually* for three years or more, but this will not all be needed for the Palestine Exploration Fund. If this Society, aided by other British Archaeological Societies, could guarantee £5,000 spread over three years for their special share in the work, probably the other Societies together would make up the other £10,000. But as the premier Society of its kind in the land, and as representing Great Britain, the holder of the mandate, we should, if possible, give a lead. Nothing should be left undone if we are to maintain the position we have hitherto held. With our present commitments our annual subscriptions will not enable the Executive Committee to guarantee more than a quarter of this sum, and that too spread over two or three years. They therefore most earnestly appeal to the members of the Society to make a supreme effort to raise the necessary guarantee to enable the work to begin this coming season.

If funds are available, the Committee are most anxious to have their own Director of Excavations on the spot, and the position the British Archaeology is to take in this work will depend very largely upon what the Society can contribute in money and in personnel. If funds make it possible for the work to begin this spring, the Executive Committee hope to be able to secure the services of one very well-known as a Biblical Archaeologist for the coming season, on very generous terms. If this is to be assayed, no time must be lost in settling the guarantee.

The Schweich Lectures of the British Academy were delivered by Dr. I. Abrahams, Reader in Rabbinic at the University of Cambridge, at the Rooms of the Royal Society on December 14th, 18th and 19th. Dr. Abrahams chose as his subject, "Campaigns in Palestine from Alexander the Great." The lectures were well attended and were listened to with sustained interest throughout. All those who heard them will look forward to seeing them in their more detailed and extended form when published. They are an important contribution to the history of Palestine.

In this number, Mr. Phythian-Adams describes the results of his soundings at Gaza. Many items of interest and importance are recorded, and the old problem of the "desert" of Gaza is reconsidered. The attention of our readers is specially drawn to his reports.

The following extracts upon antiquities in Palestine are taken from the "officially communicated" paragraphs in *The Palestine Weekly* of October 8th and November 10th :—

"The digging up of ancient buildings for worked stone affecting Caesarea, Tell Barak, Kurbet-el-Raseiseh, Samaria, and Jericho, has been stopped, and offenders punished.

"The fountain, 'Sebil abu Nebbut,' at Jaffa has been repaired by the Wakf authority. The dome of the fine Saracenic building, now used as prison and police headquarters at Gaza, has been repaired and plant growth removed.

"Over 60 ancient sites have been examined in the coast district between Jaffa and Athlit, and in the passes lying between Esdraelon and the coast. Principal observations are :—

"Athlit—ancient salt working, including masonry basins, canals, and sluices.

"Tell Barak—fine sculptured lid of a sarcophagus in marble, of Roman date.

"The Department of Antiquities has co-operated with the French École Biblique in obtaining a full set of squeezes of the historical Arabic inscriptions at Hebron, including those in the Haram and those in the Mosque of Sheikh Ali Bekka.

"At Beisan, Dr. Fisher has resumed work on the acropolis, and is now preparing to remove a Byzantine level two metres thick in order to lay bare the earlier Roman works below."

"The Department of Antiquities has arranged with the Pennsylvania Expedition to contribute towards the repair of a house to be used by Dr. Fisher during his excavations at Beisan, and afterwards to become the property of the Department as a local museum and guard house.

"A group of tombs, excavated on the property of Mr. Aziz Khayat to the south-east of Haifa, proved to belong to the Early Iron Age, c. 800 B.C., and are probably to be connected with Tell abu Huwam. Some of the pottery indicate relations with Cyprus.

"A group of Roman and Byzantine date at the point of Carmel and close to Tell es-Semak (Sycaminon) was also explored. Several have been cleared and made accessible to visitors, and a hinged and a rolling stone door restored to their original positions.

"The foundations of a small Byzantine church, built over a sepulchral chamber, have been laid bare by the Italian Agricultural School, Beit Jemal.

"Roman roads radiating from Beisan have been traced, and several mile-stones found.

"There is a marked increase in the importation of antiquities—especially Roman glass—from Syria and the Hauran. Most of this glass is re-exported to America."

In Jerusalem itself, the Pro-Jerusalem Society has devoted itself to the clearing of the Citadel and the Rampart Walk, and it is stated that the Post Office Square is to be taken in hand, and made more shapely.

Owing to the demands upon our space, we are obliged to hold over various notes and reviews; in particular, a notice of the new and important work by Dr. Jacob Mann on "The Jews in Egypt and in Palestine under the Fatimid Caliphs." Here, chiefly from

hitherto unpublished Genizah material, Dr. Mann has collected much valuable information which illumines conditions in Palestine during the period in question. Another small object forwarded by Mr. Raffaelli is also held over.

Subscribers to the Palestine Exploration Fund may be interested to hear that the Fund have acquired the remaining copies of *Jérusalem sous Terre*, written by Father Vincent, and published at the Office of the *Field Newspaper*. This work is profusely illustrated by plans and photographs, and giving as it does a full archaeological review of the excavations in the hill "Ophel," conducted by the Hon. Montague B. Parker, is essential to all those who make a scientific study of the Holy City. The Fund is disposing of these—there are only a few copies left—at 5s. per copy, or 6s. post free.

Subscribers will recollect that the map of the Negeb or Wilderness of Zin, which should have accompanied the 1914-15 Annual, had then to be withheld from publication owing to the War. The Committee are glad to announce that the map has now been prepared for the Fund by the War Office, and a copy will be supplied gratis to those Members desirous of procuring it to complete their record of the 1914 Survey. Applications should be addressed to the Assistant Secretary.

Photo-relief map of Palestine: This popular little map, which is reproduced by collotype process from the well-known raised maps, has been reprinted and is now on sale. It measures (with margin) 29 × 19 inches and contains some hundreds of Biblical names. The price to subscribers is 2s. 6d., and to non-subscribers 3s.; postage 6d. extra.

The Library of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains many duplicate volumes, including standard works by Robinson, Ritter, Stanley and others. They may be had separately, and a list, with the price of each volume, has been prepared, and can be obtained on application.

The list of books received will be found below, pp. 6-8.

The Committee will be glad to communicate with ladies and gentlemen willing to help the Fund as Honorary Local Secretaries.

It may be well to mention that plans and photographs alluded to in the reports from Jerusalem and elsewhere cannot all be published, but they are preserved in the office of the Fund, where they may be seen by subscribers.

The Committee gratefully acknowledge the following special donations:—

	£	s.	d.
George Mathieson, Esq.	10	0	0
Miss M. Chambers Hodgetts	5	5	0
J. R. Barlow, Esq.	5	0	0

A complete set of the *Quarterly Statements*, 1869–1910, containing some of the early letters (now scarce), with an Index, 1869–1910, bound in the Palestine Exploration Fund cases, can be had. Price on application to the Secretary, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W. 1.

The price of a complete set of the translations published by the Palestine Pilgrims' Text Society, in 13 volumes, with general index, bound in cloth, is £10 10s. A catalogue describing the contents of each volume can be had on application to the Secretary, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W. 1.

The Museum at the office of the Fund, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W. 1, is open to visitors every week-day from 10 o'clock till 5, except Saturdays, when it is closed at 1 p.m.

Subscribers in U.S.A. to the work of the Fund will please note that they can procure copies of any of the publications from Prof. Elihu Grant, Honorary General Secretary to the Fund, Haverford College, Pa.

The Committee beg to acknowledge with thanks the following:—

From Miss Wilson (daughter of the late Sir Charles Wilson):—A set of the *Quarterly Statements Annuals*, I, II, and III; Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem, 1865; three volumes of Notes, Plans and Photographs; Ordnance Survey of Sinai, 1869; five volumes of Notes, Plans and Photographs.

From Mrs. F. T. Ellis:—Three Russian Engravings of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre—(The Entrance, Chapel of St. Helena, and the Calvary). These are nicely framed, and a welcome addition to the walls of the Museum.

The Committee have also to acknowledge with thanks the following:—

The Near East: A weekly review of politics, etc.; letters from Palestine, etc.

The Irish Theological Quarterly, July, 1922: The Mission of Esdras, by E. J. Kissane.

The Jews in Egypt and in Palestine under the Fāṭimid Caliphs, Vols. I and II, by Jacob Mann, M.A., D.Lit. (Oxford Press, 1922).

The Expository Times, Oct.: The Amorite king Humbaba, by Prof. Clay.

Bible Lands.

American Journal of Archaeology, July–Sept.

The Jewish Quarterly Review.

Summary of Events of Jewish Interest, Vol. II, No. 1, June–Aug., 1922. Palestine.

The Zionist Review.

The Homiletic Review, Sept.: Syria in Christian Archaeology.

Art and Archaeology.

Selected Temple Accounts from Telloh, Yokha and Drehem: Cuneiform Tablets in the Library of Princeton University, by E. Chiera, Ph.D.

Jewish Quarterly Review, July: Review by S. Cohen of Reports by the Committee on Palestinian Sanitation.

A Treatise on the Construction, Completion and Dedication of King Solomon's Temple. Prepared by Chas. A. Conover, Grand Secretary, Coldwater, Michigan.

Journal of American Oriental Society, XLII, 1–2: The Babylonian Practice of Marking Slaves, by R. A. Brooks.

Friend's Witness, XV, 1922.

The Hebrew Christian Alliance Quarterly.

Les Hébreux en Egypte, by Alexis Mallon, S.I., Rome, 1921.

Revue Biblique, Oct.: Égyptiens et Hébreux, by Gustave Lefebvre; un type de baptistère byzantin, by R. P. Vincent; quelques monuments mégalithiques en Palestine, by R. P. Abel.

Journal Asiatique, April–June: On the Story of Ahikar, by M. F. Nau; Magical Arab Alphabets, by M. M. Delafosse.

Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique, 1917–19, 1922.

Biblica, Oct.: Note on the Hebrew Inscription of Alma, by E. Burrows; Chronique Palestinienne, by A. Mallon.

Orientalistische Literaturzeitung.

Palästina-Jahrbuch, by Gustaf Dalman, 8 vols., 1914–21.

Das Grab Christi in Deutschland, by Prof. Gustaf Dalman, Leipzig, 1922.

Palestine Weekly, Nov. 3: Palestinian Health: Ophthalmic Section.

NEA ΣΙΩΝ, Aug.: The City of David and the Diggings in 1913–14.

Al-Mashrik, Oct. : Une Visite à Sheikh 'Adi et à Rabban Hormuzd, by the Abbé Salamon Sayegh ; Antiquités Arabes à Damas, by Mag. J. Elian Sarkis, etc. ; Nov. : La découverte récente d'une ancienne Croix chrétienne dans une pagode chinoise, by P. L. Cheikho, S.J.

The Committee will be glad to receive donations of Books to the Library of the Fund, which already contains many works of great value relating to Palestine and other Bible lands.

The Committee will be grateful to any subscribers who may be disposed to present to the Fund any of the following books :—

The Memoirs of the Survey of Western Palestine.

The Quarterly Statement, from 1869 up to date.

Duc de Luynes, *Voyage à la Mer Morte* (1864) ; published about 1874.

K. von Raumer, *Der Zug der Israeliten.* (Leipzig, 1837.)

Lagarde, *Onomastica Sacra* (1887).

Prof. Flinders Petrie's *Tell el-Hesi (Lachish)*.

New Edition of the Babylonian Talmud, English Translation. Original text edited, formulated and punctuated by Michael L. Rodkinson.

Revised and corrected by the Rev. Dr. Isaac M. Wise. Published by the New Amsterdam Book Company, New York. Vol. I, *Sabbath*, already in the Library, subsequent volumes wanted.

Sir George Arthur, *The Life of Lord Kitchener.*

Whilst desiring to give publicity to proposed identifications and other theories advanced by officers of the Fund and contributors to the pages of the *Quarterly Statement*, the Committee wish it to be distinctly understood that by publishing them in the *Quarterly Statement* they do not necessarily sanction or adopt them.

FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

I give to the Palestine Exploration Fund, London, the sum of _____ to be applied towards the General Work of the Fund ; and I direct that the said sum be paid, free of Legacy Duty, and that the Receipt of the Treasurer of the Palestine Exploration Fund shall be a sufficient discharge for the same.

NOTE.—*Three Witnesses are necessary to a Will by the Law of the United States of America, and Two by the Law of the United Kingdom.*