

T H E

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

NOTES AND NEWS.

THE Quarterly Report from the Rev. Garrow Duncan which appears in this number of the *Quarterly Statement* is full of details of extreme interest. The progress of following the course of the Eastern fortifications of the Ancient City has been steady. Three caves have been explored with results to some extent disappointing, but one has yielded a very ancient Hebrew Inscription, which, though not of very great importance, will arouse much discussion and holds out the hope of more to come. Some interesting jar-handles, too, have come to light. Altogether the work is now in a critical stage, full of possibilities, when it would be lamentable if we had to close down. Unfortunately, the special sum provided by *The Daily Telegraph*, by Mr. Charles Marston and by the Schweich Fund, has been almost exhausted. The Committee have been compelled to instruct Mr. Duncan to cut down greatly his expenses immediately, and unless further support is very soon forthcoming, the present excavations will have to cease in the early autumn. It was never supposed by the Committee of the Fund that the sum of £5,000, such as we have had available, would provide funds for more than one long season of work; only a very substantial further support will enable the Committee to proceed with the excavations. Another season of digging, costing, say, another £2,500, may be expected to produce results of far-reaching importance. There is no reason why the ostrakon, with its Hebrew Inscription which we publish below (p. 184), may not be the first of many others still uncovered. It is almost inconceivable that the great British public who profess

an interest in Biblical Studies can willingly allow the excavation of so unique a site to be closed down, or left to foreign excavators to complete, for want of relatively so small a sum.

In the last number of the *Q.S.* Canon Hanauer referred to a supposed antiquity of great importance which, in his opinion and in that of Prof. Macalister, was nothing more than a "columbarium." Only a few weeks later an article in *The Times* drew public attention to the presumed "find," and the news went round the press. We quote the following opening paragraph from *The Daily Telegraph* of July 24th :—

"*The Times* to-day publishes an account written by the the Rev. C. C. Dobson, Vicar of St. Peter's, Paddington, of an interesting discovery which has been made near the entrance to the Garden Tomb, outside the Damascus Gate of Jerusalem. Some loose stones were being removed from the ground in front of the entrance of the tomb, in the process of tidying up the garden, when one of them attracted the attention of Miss Hussey, who is in charge of the tomb, owing to the fact that it had markings upon it. She had it removed, partially cleaned it, and reported the find to the Government Department of Antiquities. A few days later it was viewed by Professor Brandenburg, who was commissioned by the Berlin Society of Palestinian Research to investigate the rock tombs of Palestine a year ago. Without hesitation he identified it as 'a shrine of the Goddess Cybele or Aphrodite (Venus), with the column and tree of Adonis or Attys beside it,' declaring that such shrines were found in the Temple of Venus."

A few weeks later the *Near East* of August 28th published the following paragraph from its Jerusalem correspondent (writing August 16th) :—

"Most people who are interested in the subject at all have quite fixed and final views on the 'Garden Tomb,' the rival site to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. *The Times* a few weeks ago gave unwise prominence to some new evidence supposed to go far towards proving the genuineness of the 'Garden Tomb' site. This evidence has now been very badly

man-handled. Professor Brandenburg, a well-known student of Mediterranean rock architecture, on whose authority the model of a 'columbarium' (the dovecot arrangement used by the Romans for depositing the urns containing the ashes of the dead), the small object recently discovered, was identified as having something to do with the Temple of Venus known to have been set up in the second century over the site of the actual burial-place of Jesus—as soon as *The Times* article came to his notice Professor Brandenburg came forward with a very indignant denial that he had ever said anything remotely justifying the conclusions arrived at in the course of the article. Professor Dalman, a well-known Palestinian archaeologist and one-time Danish Consul in Jerusalem, has come forward with the probably true explanation of the origin of the 'columbarium'—that it was one of many archaeological models which the pre-War caretaker of the 'Garden Tomb,' a Dane, Carl Beckholdt, was in the habit of carving with a penknife out of soft kakuli stone, in order to sell them to visitors. He instanced models of 'Absalom's Tomb,' two of which were now in his possession. Finally, Canon J. E. Hanauer identifies the newly-found kakuli limestone object as a slightly idealised attempt at making a model of the 'columbarium' still to be seen on the northern slope of the traditional 'Mount of Offence' at Silwan. While as for 'the distinct traces of a large building' and 'the springs of two arches cut into the rock,' which *The Times* article leads one to suppose are relics of that old 'Temple of Venus,' Canon Hanauer shows them to be work of crusading times and fragments of the stable ('Asnerie,' the old name of the site occupied by the 'Garden Tomb,' means 'donkey-stall') for the beasts belonging to pilgrims waiting for permission to enter the Holy City."

Meanwhile Canon Hanauer communicated to Dr. Masterman the following extract from a letter which he had received from Prof. Dalman:—

"As late Danish Consul and Swedish Consul-General I read with special interest what you write in the *Quarterly Statement* about Mr. Beckholdt's antiquities. He left

Jerusalem at least four or five years before the War, when going home to Denmark, and gave me, as Danish Consul, what was left of his things and what he did not care to take with him. He made models of kakuli-limestone *himself to sell them to visitors*. Two models, one of *Absalom's Tomb* and one of *Rachel's Tomb*, are still in my possession. When he left, a Swede took his place, and his possessions I had to pack after his departure to take care of them. At that time I saw all that was left in the houses of the Garden Tomb and found nothing corresponding to your description. Thus you see that no German officer could take what did not exist when war began. I hope you will let the readers of the *Quarterly Statement* know these facts."

In a later letter to Dr. Masterman, Prof. Dalman writes:—

"I find it very likely that Mr. Beckholdt, who made his models from the same kind of stone, had to do with [the alleged shrine]."

Finally, Canon Hanauer, who, it will be seen, now considers the object to be less ancient than he formerly thought (*Q.S.*, p. 144), replied to the article of the Rev. C. C. Dobson, in *The Times*, in a statement which he originally sent to that paper. This we publish below (pp. 187 *sqq.*). The P.E.F. has no wish to enter into a controversy in respect to this site, but it feels that the information which the Rev. Canon Hanauer has received from Professor Dalman may have an important bearing upon the origin of the Stone which Professor Brandenburg found in the "Garden Tomb" enclosure. In a letter to *The Times* (dated September 6th), Professor Brandenburg says:—

"It is difficult to form a judgment on the stone as it is marked in rather a rough manner and is much damaged. It is my belief, nevertheless, that the stone dates from about the beginning of the Christian era. It is not a copy of the temple of Aphrodite and I think it wrong to connect this stone in any way with an altar belonging to the goddess and still more with any question concerning the situation of the Holy Sepulchre, with which it has nothing whatever to do."

Whether the object is more than a columbarium, and whether, as Professor Brandenburg thinks, it is an ancient and genuine shrine, perhaps made as a votive offering, are questions that must be left for archaeologists to decide. Canon Hanauer draws attention to the fresh colour and well-preserved condition of the stone, even after it had been washed, and he remarks that "as a matter of fact, kakouli limestone, though it hardens by exposure to the air, yet gradually changes colour." Further, the fact that the object is carefully marked and modelled suggests to him that it was made in all probability by a European. Further evidence and expert opinion are needed.

We are glad to be able to report the publication of the results of the Harvard excavations at Samaria, 1908-10. The publication has been hindered by untoward circumstances, but the two sumptuous volumes now before us make up for the delay, and we hope to be able to give some account of them in the next issue. Of the excavations at Beth-Shean preliminary statements have been published in the *Journal of the Philadelphian Museum*, and references to the very important Egyptian discoveries which were made there will be found on p. 199. In congratulating the expedition on its success we would also express our keen appreciation of the prompt publication of evidence which proves to be of such extreme interest to students of the Old Testament.

Subscribers resident in Palestine are kindly asked to note that Lady Watson, widow of Colonel Sir Charles Watson, R.E., late Chairman of the P.E.F. Committee, has kindly consented to act as Hon. Local Secretary for Jerusalem in succession to Mrs. Barron who has left the country. Subscriptions and enquiries as to Membership should be addressed, Lady Watson, P.O. Box 102, Jerusalem.

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 x 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. 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, p. 159 *sq.*

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 contributions:—

	£	s.	d.
Legacy bequeathed by the late Miss Julia Minet, £200 (less duties)	180	0	0
Henry Morden Bennett, Esq. (Life Membership)	26	5	0
W. T. Grant, Esq. (Life Membership) ...	\$112	88	

Donations for Ophel.

	£	s.	d.
Col. H. W. R. Senior	5	5	0
Rev. W. Ross, B.D.	1	1	0
Mrs. John Binney	\$5	00	

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 have also to acknowledge with thanks the following:—

The Near East, July 10th: Central Asia—Yesterday and To-day (Lord Curzon).

Liverpool Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology, June: The Fable of the Goat and the Vine, by Prof. Halliday.

Journal of Egyptian Archaeology, July: The geography of the Exodus, an answer to Prof. Naville and others, by Dr. Alan Gardiner.

The Expository Times, May: Zionism, by Prof. J. E. McFadyen; July, Tablet B.M. 21,901 and Politics in Jerusalem, by Prof. Lofthouse.

Journal of the Anthropological Society, LIV, 1924.

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Zionist Review.

The Harvard Excavations at Samaria, 1908-1910. By G. A. Reisner, C. S. Fisher, D. G. Lyon, 2 vols. (text and plans). Published by the Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass.

The Museum Journal (Philadelphia, Pa.). See p. 199.

Journal of the American Oriental Society, June: A note on the Marsh Arabs of Lower Iraq, by R. Levy.

American Journal of Archaeology, XXVIII, 2. The interpretation of the Minoan Scripts, by F. M. Stawell; archaeological discussions; bibliography of archaeological books.

The Genius of Israel: A Reading of Hebrew Scriptures prior to the Exile. By Carleton Noyes, Cambridge, U.S.A. \$5. See p. 206.

Homiletic Review.

Art and Archaeology, July-August: South Tunisia and the Sahara, by Byron de Prorok, etc., etc.

American Journal of Philology, XLV, 2.

Jewish Quarterly Review, July.

Bulletin de Correspondence Hellénique, 1923, July-Dec.

Biblica, June.

Zeitschrift für die Alttest. Wissenschaft, 1924, 1-2. Die Aufgaben d. Alttest. Forschung, by the Editor (Prof. H. Gressmann); Tud'alia, zeitgenosse Abrahams um 1650 v. Chr., by Dr. F. M. Böhl; l'inscription des deux colonnes du temple de Salomon, by Dr. Ch. Bruston; die Syrischen Berge Ša-ri-ja-na und Bi-i-ša-i-ša in den Boghazköi-Texten, by Dr. A. Gustavs, etc.

Das Land der Bibel: Gemeinverständliche Hefte zur Palästinakunde, ed. G. Hölscher, Leipzig; Pamphlets on the Land, by V. Schwöbel; Ancient Inhabitants, by O. Procksch; the Monuments of the Times of Jesus, by P. Thomsen; the Greco-Roman cities of Trans-Jordania, by H. Guthe; Palestine under the Arabs, A.D. 632-1516, by R. Hartmann.

Die römischen Meilensteine d. Provinzen Syria, Arabia in Palaestina. By Dr. Peter Thomsen. (Reprinted from the *Zeit. d. Deutschen Palästina-Vereins*, Vol. 40.)

Orientalistische Literaturzeitung, July : The Osiris Mysteries and the Feast of Tabernacles, by R. Kittel.

Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins, XLVII, 3-4 : The Female Deities of Canaan, by Prof. E. Pilz ; a Kingdom of Lydda, by Prof. Alt ; the 'Ajlun, by Prof. Steuernagel, etc.

Palästina-Jahrbuch, 1924 : New Amarna Tablets, by Prof. Alt ; Through the Eg. Desert to Palestine ; to the Dead Sea and the Jordan ; Arab Songs, by Prof. Dalman, etc. : Index to Vols. XI-XX.

Bible Lands, July : Robbers' Caves at Wādi el-Hamām.

Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society, IV, 1-2 : Mohammedan Saints and Sanctuaries in Palestine, by T. Canaan, etc., No. 3 ; The South of Palestine after the Map of Medaba, by F. M. Abel, etc. ; Notes on the Jewish Graffiti of Beth-phage, by E. Sukenik ; Rules of Hospitality, by Omar Salih el-Barghuthi.

NEA ΣΙΩΝ.

Al-Mashrik.

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).

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.*
