



## Mosaics on Mount Zion

Frank T. Ellis

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November, and  $9^{\circ}6$  in amount, takes place here a month earlier, viz., from September to October, and is as large as  $10^{\circ}8$ .

The lowest mean annual temperature was  $47^{\circ}3$  in 1888, and the highest was  $50^{\circ}4$  in 1884. The mean of the 10 years was  $49^{\circ}1$ , being  $17^{\circ}8$  lower than at Saronà.

By comparing the numbers in Tables XIII. and XIV. together, it will be seen that in every month the temperature at Saronà is very much higher than at Blackheath. The least and greatest differences in each month, together with the mean for 10 years, are as follows : in—

			the least differ- ence was		the greatest was		the mean of 10 years was
January	....	....	$7^{\circ}3$	....	$27^{\circ}9$	....	$18^{\circ}1$
February	....	....	$7^{\circ}8$	....	$24^{\circ}9$	....	$16^{\circ}0$
March	....	....	$11^{\circ}4$	....	$27^{\circ}5$	....	$18^{\circ}1$
April	....	....	$13^{\circ}0$	....	$21^{\circ}6$	....	$17^{\circ}2$
May	....	....	$9^{\circ}5$	....	$20^{\circ}3$	....	$14^{\circ}4$
June	....	....	$10^{\circ}9$	....	$16^{\circ}8$	....	$13^{\circ}4$
July	....	....	$9^{\circ}6$	....	$20^{\circ}0$	....	$13^{\circ}4$
August	....	....	$11^{\circ}5$	....	$20^{\circ}1$	....	$16^{\circ}9$
September	....	....	$13^{\circ}6$	....	$22^{\circ}9$	....	$19^{\circ}6$
October	....	....	$19^{\circ}4$	....	$33^{\circ}4$	....	$26^{\circ}3$
November	....	....	$15^{\circ}6$	....	$28^{\circ}1$	....	$21^{\circ}4$
December	....	....	$14^{\circ}8$	....	$24^{\circ}8$	....	$19^{\circ}7$

The month of least difference was January, 1884, and was  $7^{\circ}3$ , and that of the greatest was October, 1888, and  $33^{\circ}4$ .

The least annual difference was  $15^{\circ}3$  in 1884, and the greatest was  $20^{\circ}4$  in 1888. The mean difference of the 10 years was  $17^{\circ}8$ .

The months of least difference are June, July, and May, the mean difference of these three months being  $13^{\circ}7$ ; and those of the greatest differences are October, November, and December (September being of nearly the same value as December), the mean difference of these three months, viz., October, November, and December, being  $22^{\circ}5$ .

## MOSAICS ON MOUNT ZION.

BISHOP GOBAT SCHOOL, MOUNT ZION,  
JERUSALEM, *July 8th, 1891.*

In Captain Conder's report to the Palestine Exploration Fund on "The Rock Scarp of Zion," dated January 10th, 1875, he alludes to a great quantity of Mosaic pavement apparently fallen from above, near the wall, built at right angles to the scarp and where Mr. Maudslay's

work terminated towards the north. From time to time large pieces of the mosaic pavement have been found in that place. During the last week a great deal of rubbish has been removed with the intention of building an outhouse; this has laid bare a considerable portion of pavement perfectly horizontal in position. About three yards below this the top of a cistern was discovered with two well-worn rock-cut steps leading to it. The cistern was filled with rubbish fallen in from above; it is apparently a large one, though an accurate estimate cannot be formed from the small part excavated; it seems to be of the beehive shape, but it may prove to be square. There are portions of fine cement still adhering to its sides. The cement is formed of lime, sand, and pottery, though only a very small proportion of the latter.

Rude masonry, which possibly may have been the foundation of more steps, is built upon the edge of the cistern which comes immediately below the boundary wall. The cistern will be about four yards from the outer face of the scarp exposed in the Greek Catholic Cemetery. It is at a higher level than the other cisterns found in the school, and judging from its appearance is most probably of the same date.

In examining the tool-marks left on the Rock Scarp of Zion, and also those of the so-called tombs of the Kings and Judges on the north of Jerusalem, I have been surprised to find a great similarity of workmanship. The water-channels which are cut in the face of the solid rock are also on a similar pattern. Might I ask if attention has been drawn to this?

FRANK T. ELLIS.

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## THE LACHISH INSCRIPTION.

Note by Professor A. NEUBAUER.

ACCORDING to Professor Sayce's communication the original of the Hebrew inscription from Tell-el-Hesi is **לסמך** and not as Professor Clermont-Ganneau states, with too much assurance, a word in which the second letter is a *heth*. *Hasûk* is unknown as a proper name, whilst **סמך** occurs in the Bible as a composite proper name in **אחיסמך** (Exodus xxxi, 6, xxxv, 34, and xxxviii, 23) and in **סמכיהו** (1 Chronicles xxvi, 7).

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