



## Eighteen Months' Work of The Department of Antiquities For Palestine

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£10,000, and created a Trust Fund to be administered by himself, Sir Frederic Kenyon, and Mr. Hogarth. Most of this fund was still intact when war broke out. The balance was invested, and though drawn upon for Mr. Woolley's campaign at Carchemish in 1920, is still sufficient to secure a year or two's further work on the site, if and when the political situation in North Syria and Mesopotamia becomes more favourable.

To the Palestine Exploration Fund in 1911 he presented the freehold premises now occupied by us, No. 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square. The house and situation was chosen with much forethought. The Society had previously rented premises for its office and affairs in Hanover Square and afterwards in Conduit Street. But he recognized what a drawback these movements from time to time were for the adequate use and housing of our Library and Museum. Owing to his characteristic desire to remain anonymous, the gift was never announced in the *Quarterly Statement*, the only allusion to it being made by himself in his Treasurer's Statement of 1911, when he incidentally mentioned that the recurrent amount expended hitherto on rent would cease to appear, the Society being housed in its own premises.

*Grato animo tantum beneficium inter multa alia celebramus.*

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## EIGHTEEN MONTHS' WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES FOR PALESTINE.

JULY, 1920—DECEMBER, 1921.

By PROFESSOR JOHN GARSTANG, D.Sc., B.Litt.

*Organization.*—Within a few days of the establishment of a Civil Government in Jerusalem in July, 1920, His Excellency the High Commissioner called for proposals from the Director of the British School of Archaeology with a view to the organization of a Department of Antiquities. In ten days this Department was created; shortly afterwards an Archaeological Advisory Board was constituted, and within a few weeks an Antiquities Ordinance was promulgated. The completed organization of the Department

includes as personnel, a Director with two chief technical Assistants, namely, a Keeper of Museums and a Chief Inspector.

The Keeper of Museums is responsible for all the public collections of movable antiquities. He is assisted by a numismatist and the office staff of the Department.

The Chief Inspector is responsible for all the immovable antiquities of Palestine. Under him are three Junior Inspectors. Their work is organized as far as possible district by district, with sufficient freedom to enable them to respond to calls in other areas. There are under his orders six guards stationed in the more important centres of antiquities—Tiberias, Athlit, Caesarea, Askalon, and Jerusalem, while a special guardian is detailed to the Museum, and another is proposed for Samaria.

*Constitution.*—The Advisory Archaeological Board, an important feature in the constitution of this Department, includes representatives of the various organizations engaged in archaeological work in Palestine on behalf of other countries or of local societies. The Director consults this body on all questions of general interest or on questions likely to involve opposing interests, also on matters of a technical character. The Board has met frequently, its recommendations and decisions have been in all cases unanimous, and have been invariably adopted by the Administration. The unity to which the Advisory Board has attained, while valuable in itself, is a real source of strength to the young Department.

The Antiquities Ordinance was based not only upon the collective advice of archaeological and legal specialists, but embodied the results of experience in neighbouring countries. Conferences with British, American and French experts have resulted in agreement being reached on points where divergent views were apparent, and when certain modifications indicated by these conferences and by experience have been introduced, the document should prove a really workable and acceptable instrument.

There is one principle which is paramount throughout its clauses—the monuments and antiquities of Palestine belong to Palestine and to Palestinians.

The second principle is—the encouragement offered to scientific workers. Permits to excavate will be issued only to scientific bodies, who guarantee the qualifications and equipment of the excavator. Under such conditions the Government will facilitate excavations in every possible way, and has reserved powers to share the fruits

of excavations with organizations undertaking such work, while safeguarding the interests of the national collection of Palestine.

The registration of historical sites and the inventories of dealers' stocks and private collections is involved in the operation of the new law. This task has been making progress, and provisional lists of historical sites and buildings with the names transliterated in the three official languages are now about to appear in the Official Gazette. Historical sites or buildings still in religious use are excluded from the ordinary application of the law, though special powers are provided to ensure their conservation and protection.

*Museums.*—The preservation of all movable antiquities in this country has involved the establishment of a Central Museum, a task which has been entrusted to Mr. Phythian-Adams. One hundred and twenty cases of antiquities which had lain hidden in the city during the war were recovered last year. Many of these had formed the nucleus of the local collection in other days, while others seem to have been the fruits of excavations made just previous to the war, and packed ready for transport to Constantinople. There was no catalogue, and the provenance of each object had to be studiously determined by reference to publications and by comparative methods. Mr. Phythian-Adams has surmounted these difficulties, with the result that more than 6,000 objects were catalogued and a proper inventory drawn up during the winter months.

The Museum in Jerusalem will receive the smaller, more delicate, and more valuable objects, and those antiquities of general historical interest. Here also will be formed the collection of material for advanced study. Objects of peculiar local interest, archaeological pieces and sculptures not of unusual merit, are to be cared for, as far as possible, in the localities in which they are found. Local Museums are being projected at various centres for this purpose: those of Askalon, Caesarea, and Acre are already accessible. Though every effort will be made to render these Museums self-supporting, they will still be under the authority of the Department, through the Keeper of Museums. In Jerusalem, objects of architectural character and larger sculptures will be grouped, if possible, within the Citadel, where rooms in the Hippicus Tower have been prepared by the Department for exhibition purposes. Another room in the Citadel will be adopted for display of Arab Art, and other sectional museums are contemplated.

The Museum in Jerusalem has already been enriched by the generosity of Miss Newton, of Haifa, who has deposited there the whole of her unique collection of Roman and Byzantine gold jewellery and ornaments. The numismatic section has also been greatly developed by the appointment of Dr. Raffaelli as Curator, his own collection being loaned and exhibited with that of the Government, which it greatly supplements.

*Conservation.*—Repairs have been executed to dangerous spots in the fabric of the Citadel and the City Walls of Jerusalem, through the Pro-Jerusalem Society, aided by subsidies from the Department.

At Acre, thanks to the initiative of the Deputy-District Governor, considerable progress has been made with clearing the débris from the crypts of the fine mediaeval building for which that place is famous. A Junior Inspector of the Department has been attached provisionally to that district.

At Ramleh the dangerous condition of the beautiful monument, known as the Crusaders' Tower or the Tower of the Forty Martyrs, has been considered, and it is hoped that in collaboration with the Public Works Department and the Waqf Authorities it will be possible to do what is necessary to safeguard the fabric and appearance of this monument.

At Ain Duk, near Jericho, the French Archaeological School (École Biblique de St. Étienne), under Père Vincent, have completed the clearance of the very ancient synagogue of that site, where, as a result of the war, certain portions of the mosaic floor had been disclosed. The necessary removal of mosaics for the preservation of the designs and inscriptions was skilfully performed by Mr. Mackay, then Chief Inspector of this Department.

Other works of conservation on a smaller scale have been initiated, notably at Jifna, Ramallah, Tiberias, and Caesarea. In all these cases the policy of this Department is to endeavour to interest the local authority and notables in the monuments of their own districts. This is not merely a method of husbanding the resources which the Government are able to allocate to the costs of conservation, necessary and desirable though that is; it is equally desirable that everyone should wake to a lively sense of the value of history, particularly in this country where the whole environment is historical, and there is no method so effective as

that of encouraging each and every one to take a proper share in the very special responsibilities which devolve upon all who dwell in this land of Palestine.

*Excavation.*—With the approval of this Department, the Palestine Exploration Fund has opened an extensive excavation at Askalon, where work was resumed in April, after having been suspended for the winter. The Great Cloister or colonnade with which Herod the Great adorned his birthplace has been identified and largely cleared. To this was subsequently added a Basilica, reconstructed later into the "building in the form of a theatre," which Antoninus Martyr described as enclosing a Well of Peace. The Well and statue of Peace have been recovered in the chorus of the theatre. Later again, a great Arab mosque covered the spot, and the Basilica became a Mihrab.

In the Acropolis of Askalon the traces of Philistine occupation are clear, and more important are the remains of the pre-Philistine inhabitants. Further research must show whether this appertained to the Capthorim or to the Canaanites, or was implanted direct by pre-Philistine colonists from over sea.

At Tiberias the Palestine Jewish Exploration Society made last year a successful series of soundings, disclosing remains clearly to be identified with the period of the Talmud. The same Society under Dr. Slousch has continued excavations on the site examined last year, and has extended its investigations with a somewhat wider area in the vicinity of Tiberias. The model of a seven-branched candlestick in stone, conforming in detail of design with most ancient Jewish tradition, was among the objects recovered.

At Gethsemane, under special arrangements with this Department, the Franciscan Custody has completed the excavation of a very early church, probably of the fourth century, in which there may be traced three apses, the whole of the original outline, and various fragments of the original pavement. The Franciscan Custody has also recommenced excavations under Père Orfali in the interesting site of the Synagogue of Capernaum (Tell Hum), and laid bare a hexagonal court and ambulatory between the Synagogue and the Lake. The floor is paved with mosaics of interesting design.

The University Museum of Philadelphia has commenced work at Beisan under Dr. Fisher, with gratifying results. Dr. Fisher's work on this most important site is well planned and well organized.

He is taking off the mound layer by layer, disclosing a period of history at each step; he has also cut a stratigraphical section, which takes us back to pre-Egyptian days. An Egyptian monument discovered dates probably from the time of Rameses II., but the cartouches are difficult to decipher.

The site of Megiddo has been provisionally reserved for the University of Chicago, and that of Samaria for the University of Harvard.

*Societies and Schools.*—This outline of the year's work will not be complete without a reference to the activities of the various archaeological societies, the centre of whose work is in Jerusalem. The old established French School (the École Biblique de St. Étienne) and the long established American School of Oriental Studies have resumed and continued their labours unremittingly; their own publications speak for themselves. Particularly important are the Studies of the Site and Monuments in Jerusalem by Pères Vincent and Abel, and a study on the Mosque of Hebron in which Mr. MacKay of the Department has co-operated. Dr. Albright, Head of the American School, has given a brief account of the very important topographical and other researches in which he has been engaged. The American School also attracted to Jerusalem last year two distinguished colleagues, Dr. Peters and Professor Clay, and we were privileged also to have in our midst for a short time Professor Breasted, of the University of Chicago. Their visits were appreciated and will be remembered by all in Jerusalem.

The founding of the Palestine Oriental Society, a new feature of intellectual life in Jerusalem, comes also within the year under review. It is the common ground of all the different societies, archaeologists and students of the Near East. The opportunity before this Society in the future will be great.