

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN
JERUSALEM

REPORT FOR THE SEASON, 1936-7

THE Council has received from the new Director, Mr. P. L. O. Guy, the report which follows, and appeals confidently to the subscribers for the continuance of their support. As no excavation this year required his personal superintendence, the Director has been able to devote much of his time to the school's equipment, and to the organization of the Archaeological Survey of Palestine.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT, 1936-7

At the request of the Honorary Secretary I remained in London for the Annual General Meeting held on 24th November, 1936, leaving England shortly afterwards and reaching Jerusalem on 16th December. Financial arrangements for beginning the field work of the Archaeological Survey were not then complete, and I was able to devote time to the School's possessions.

The collection of missing periodicals has progressed, but it has been slowing down, for most of the readily obtainable parts have now been obtained, and most of those which are still lacking are rarer, and hard to come by. Lists of the journals which the school desired to acquire, and of those which it had for disposal, were made and sent to the libraries of the Department of Antiquities, the Hebrew University, the American School of Oriental Research, the Ecole Biblique and the Pontifical Biblical Institute. As a result, four bound volumes and a number of odd parts of the *Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art* which belonged to the school were found among the duplicates of the departmental library, and have been returned to us, and the Ecole Biblique have most generously supplied several of the rare early numbers of their *Revue*, which we lacked, in exchange for certain periodicals which we had for disposal but which were of much

less value. Exchanges are being arranged with the Hebrew University Library.

Binding has been continued, volumes of periodicals being bound as they were completed, and other necessary work done. During the financial year ending 30th September, the number of volumes dealt with was as follows :

<i>Newly bound</i>	<i>Binding corrected</i>	<i>Title corrected or amplified</i>	<i>Repaired or rebound</i>	<i>Total</i>
185	9	28	12	234

Hitherto, periodicals have been entered on cards in the general catalogue of books. A separate catalogue has now been made in a loose-leaf binder, and is up-to-date. A short summary of this catalogue has been made out and sent to each of the libraries mentioned above, in order that students at those libraries may know what periodicals are to be found in the School library. Lists of the periodicals taken by those libraries have been asked for in exchange, and two have been received.

A draft letter was prepared and forwarded to the Honorary Secretary regarding the arrangement of reciprocal privileges between the school's library and other libraries in Jerusalem for which provision is not made in the Statutes.

Some work has been done on the collection of pamphlets and offprints, which are in process of being arranged in cases, for each of which a list of contents is being made out. I have placed in the school library a number of pamphlets which, I think, will be of more general use there than in my personal library.

The additions to the library during the last eighteen months, which have been considerable, thanks to the Honorary Treasurer's gift, recorded in last year's report, have strained the shelf capacity. Since the table is a large one, I have bought a new bookcase of the same length, which now stands upon it and has been filled with dictionaries and other reference books, thus making a little more room on the wall shelves. Nevertheless, the question of accommodating further acquisitions is one which deserves consideration. A visitor's book and a new loan book have been placed in the library. The maps

belonging to the school have been put together, and portfolios to hold them are on order.

The school linen, blankets and mosquito nets have been washed, mended, and marked with the school's initials. After discarding some which were beyond repair, or using them to repair others, 113 pieces are now in good condition.

The school's publications have been placed on sale at the Divan Bookshop, Jaffa Road, Jerusalem, and a notice to inform the public of this fact has been inserted in the local press.

The Colt Expedition has excavated again in the Negeb. The council will hear from the excavators themselves an account of their work. I should, however, like to compliment the expedition on the persistence with which it endeavoured to reach the bottom of the great well at Abda, and to commiserate with it on its failure to do so. I have spoken about this well to the Development Officer now in charge of water-works in the Negeb, and am not without hope that it may be possible to have its clearance completed before next season.

Mr. Baly delivered an interesting broadcast from Jerusalem on the work of the expedition.

Students.—I discussed with Mr. G. E. Kirk, student of the school, the question of his doing survey work in the Negeb when he was not engaged on work for Mr. Colt. This has been arranged.

It had been hoped that it would be possible this year for Miss Joan Crowfoot (now Mrs. Payne) to work the flint site at Ma'alaga mentioned in my last report, but after carefully going into the question of security, I came, with regret, to the conclusion that it would be unwise for her to do so.

During the early summer, Mr. R. C. Smail, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, was in Palestine in connection with his university work on Crusader material. He was commended to me by Mr. Johns, and I spoke with him of the possibility of undertaking the proposed Crusader monograph for the survey when his present work had been completed. He expressed his willingness to do so, and has been granted a Mond Studentship.

Mr. J. D. Wachter, who has worked on several expeditions outside Palestine, asked me to obtain for him from the

Transjordan Government a permit to excavate, under the auspices of the school, a flint site in the Wadi Dhobai, about forty kilometres E.S.E. of Amman. This I have done, and Mr. Waechter expects to begin work towards the end of November. One of the conditions is that the results of the excavation should be dealt with in collaboration with Miss Garrod.

Miss Joan Crowfoot and Mr. Charles Inge were again of Mr. Starkey's staff at Tell Duweir last season.

The Archaeological Survey.—Though field work could not be begun early in the year, it was possible to continue with preliminaries. It will be recalled that the Palestine Government had kindly offered to provide quarters, but that those available were not very suitable. Since an office of some sort was necessary, I hired one room from the Dominicans, paying the rent provisionally out of school funds, and subsequently obtaining a refund of this from government. I also purchased, out of school funds, a steel cupboard and filing cabinet, which have been lent to the survey, and I obtained maps from the Government Survey Department, who have been good enough to supply them free of charge.

Since some publicity for the survey seemed to be desirable in Palestine as well as in England, I lectured on it before the Palestine Oriental Society and at the Annual General Meeting of the Palestine Association of University Women, as well as at the Police Barracks on Mount Scopus. Following on the last lecture, a paragraph was inserted in Police Orders to the effect that every assistance was to be given to survey workers. I also delivered a broadcast through the Palestine Broadcasting Service, and arranged for some mention of the survey to be made in the local press.

Pending the arrival of funds, I went over Sheet 7, checking the lists of known antiquity sites by squares, and marking the sites, as far as possible, on working copies of large-scale maps, in order that these might be ready when funds arrived. Funds were made available in Jerusalem towards the end of June, but during July and part of August I was fully occupied with the Palestine Matriculation Examinations, and began field-work towards the end of the latter month. I had hoped to be able to obtain temporary local assistance in this, but there are

practically no archaeologists in Palestine at that time of year, and the only one who might have accompanied me was fully occupied with publication for his own institution, and so far I have done without help.

The authorities both in the Jerusalem and Jaffa districts recommended me to refrain from visiting the country covered by the eastern part of the sheet, and I have therefore been working in the west, beginning with the N.W. corner. Here the appearance of the countryside has greatly altered, since I first knew it in 1922, owing to development both urban and rural, but chiefly through the extension of the area under citrus cultivation.

The major sites in the area N.E. of Tel Aviv are known, and are marked on the old map, and I have found and visited these, as well as several minor *khirbets* in the more open country, without much difficulty. But the discovery of sites so far unknown, which may be situated in the citrus belt, is by no means easy, for orange trees grow densely and to some height, and all groves are, of necessity, strongly fenced. It is thus possible for some sites to be missed, but I think it may be said that none of these will be large.

The most interesting small site I have visited is one at the mouth of the Auja or Yarkon. The map reference is 12911679 : the *tell* measures some fifty by twenty-five metres, is about nine metres high, and has on it a lighthouse (marked on the map) and a small war memorial. Pottery shows that there was occupation from about the end of the Bronze Age to Roman times.

Just to the north the new Reading power station is being put up, and the *tell*, which comes within the area owned by the Palestine Electric Corporation, is being partly removed. I mentioned this to the department, and since there were difficulties in the way of official supervision an arrangement was come to under which the work of excavating was to be continued by the Corporation if I could arrange for supervision. Fortunately Mr. Wachter was free for a few days, so I took him down for a visit of inspection.

Excavation was in progress, when we arrived, on the eastern part of the mound, and there was visible in the face of the cut what I at first took to be the end of a stone wall. Closer

inspection showed, however, that it was not this, but one of the ashlar sections in the face of a wall otherwise composed of rubble, such as have been found at Megiddo and at Tell abu Huwwam. A little digging at the proper interval showed another ashlar section, and the remains of two others have since shown up, there being now visible a fair stretch of what appears to be the outside wall of a house which still remains unexcavated. I should provisionally place it about the fifth or sixth century B.C., for the masonry more closely resembles the late work at Tell abu Huwwam than the earlier work at Megiddo.

Mr. Waechter was good enough to spend a couple of days (at his own expense) observing the work and making a measured section of the fact of the cut. Meanwhile I was able to see Mr. Rutenberg, the managing director of the corporation, who has shown keen interest in the site. He has given instructions to his engineers that any instructions from me are to be closely followed, and has been good enough to say that if anything of particular interest should turn up he will provide funds for its proper preservation.

Since Mr. Waechter is unable to continue to supervise the work, as he is returning to England before starting his own excavation in Transjordan, I have asked the engineer in charge to hold up excavation until I can arrange with Dr. Sukenik, of the Hebrew University, to take charge.

South of Jaffa the citrus belt continues to be dense for some distance, the country becoming more open south of 'Aqir. I have been down to the southern limit of Sheet 7, seeing the general lie of the land, and visiting several sites. Mughar (129138) which is dealt with at some length in the old *Survey Memoirs*, is a site which has Byzantine remains at one end of its ancient occupation, and Early Bronze at the other. Kh. Thalluja is purely Byzantine, and there is an unmarked Byzantine site just off the map, at Km. 37 on the road running S.W. from Qastina to Sawafir. This southern area can be conveniently worked from Giv'at Brener, Hedera and Gan Yavne, at all of which there is accommodation.

Some fifteen years ago I flew along the coast of Palestine and marked on my map a number of things which were visible from the air. I have now visited one of the places then marked,

situated at 12411505 on the new map, where there is a spot level of forty-five metres. This turns out to be a large Byzantine town, known locally at Tell Ghuzzeh, which, as the map shows, is now completely covered and surrounded by sand dunes. It is obvious that, when the town was occupied, the dunes cannot have been as they are to-day, and the deductions suggested are that these dunes are of very recent formation, and that they have advanced at least some 5 kms. inland since the site was deserted. It would be rash to insist on precise deductions from the single site of Tell Ghuzzeh. but I believe that it will be possible to find other similar sites among the dunes, and if the lowest dates of several of these can be satisfactorily determined it should be possible to arrive at a fairly positive conclusion, both as to the age of the dunes and their rate of advance. Information of this sort is interesting archaeologically, and could be of use to the Department of Agriculture, which is concerned with measures for arresting the development of dunes. I propose to go carefully over the dune area, and shall try to go just after rain, when one can walk more quickly than when the sand is dry and powdery.

I am bound to refer in this report to the state of public security in Palestine. This has become worse in the last few days, and is definitely bad at the moment. Work in the hilly eastern part of Sheet 7 is quite ruled out for the time being, and even at Lydda, in the centre of the sheet, Government has found it desirable to impose a curfew of twenty-three hours out of the twenty-four. The western part of the sheet is safer, and until things improve I propose to limit my field-work to that part, to which I am returning to-morrow.

P. L. O. GUY,
Director.

Jerusalem,
16th October, 1937.

Publications.—Mr. J. W. Crowfoot's Memoir *Churches at Bosra and Samaria-Sebaste* (B.S.A.J. Supplementary Paper 4) has been published, and distributed to subscribers to the school and the Palestine Exploration Fund. It is now on sale to the public at 2 Hinde Street, W.1, price 5s.

Discoveries at Auja Hafsa. By H. Dunscombe Colt in *Palestine Exploration Quarterly*, October, 1936.