

## THE CEDRIC NORMAN JOHNS ARCHIVE IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND

FELICITY COBBING

During his long career as an archaeologist, C. N. Johns (1904–1992) made an outstanding contribution to scholarship in the Levant. He is particularly associated with mediaeval and Crusader sites, notably 'Atlit, 'Ajlun, and of course, the Citadel in Jerusalem.

After graduating from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Johns became involved with the intellectual life of Jerusalem, first at St George's College, and then from 1928 at the British School of Archaeology at Jerusalem, where he was Librarian. In this early stage of his career, he was involved in a number of projects, including J. W. Crowfoot's excavations on the Ophel, the 'Ajlun castle in Jordan (with G. Horsfield), and the Meydum excavations in Upper Egypt (directed by Alan Rowe). He was appointed Field Archaeologist for the Department of Antiquities of Palestine in 1930, and it was in this position, which he retained until 1948, that he conducted a great deal of the significant work with which he is most associated. Johns served on the Executive Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and was for a time its Honorary Local Secretary in Jerusalem. Following the political upheavals of 1948, and the subsequent disbanding of the British Mandate's Department of Antiquities, Johns sought employment first in Cyprus, where he worked on the Kyrenia Citadel, and subsequently in Britain, with the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments in Wales. With the exception of a period of employment in Libya, as Controller of Antiquities, he remained involved in British mediaeval archaeology and architecture for the remainder of his professional career.

Following his death in 1992, his son, Dr Adam Johns, very kindly donated his father's extensive archives to the Palestine Exploration Fund (Gibson, 1993). The archive has been thoroughly examined, repackaged, and rearranged by the writer, making the material readily accessible to all interested scholars. As well as copious notes, manuscripts, and type-proofs relating to his well-known published works, the archive contains much unpublished material, including lecture notes and texts, field notes, reports to the Department of Antiquities of Palestine, plans and drawings, and so forth. They reveal many insights into Johns's working methods (which were meticulous), and his considerable ability as a draftsman. His artistic bent is also detectable in his beautiful, distinctive, and yet mercifully legible handwriting.

A member of the 'waste not want not' generation that endured the shortages of the war years, Johns was inclined to reuse one piece of paper several times over, often for different subjects and activities, making his archive particularly dense, and sometimes difficult to arrange. An intriguing example of Johns's thrift is a Royal Asiatic Society AGM invitation, on the back of which are examples of his calligraphy exercises. One wonders whether these thoughts were jotted down at the event itself, or perhaps more politely, sometime afterwards.

The archive contains many articles in unpublished form from other scholars, primarily in relation to the final volume of the *Quarterly* of the Department of Antiquities (Vol. xiv), of which Johns was editor. However, in later years, Johns appears to have been something of a mentor to a number of scholars. The archive contains a collection of other academics' manuscripts and published documents that reflect this ongoing relationship between Johns





Fig. 2. 'Atlit, Pilgrim's Castle. c. 1930-43. (PEF/P/CNJ. 036.577)

Transjordan: 'Ajlun  
 Cyprus: Kyrenia  
 Crusader Sites & Castles, Templar Rule, Turkish Rule  
 General Archaeological Discoveries in Palestine.

Material from Johns and from other scholars is particularly well represented in QDAP Vol. xiv, which Johns both contributed to and edited.

*Photographic (PEF/P/CNJ)*

Original photographic prints and negatives of the following sites (most numerous only):

Palestine: 'Atlit (Fig. 2), Bethlehem, Gaza, Jerusalem

Transjordan: 'Ajlun, Kerak

Syria: Aleppo, Krac des Chevaliers, Qala'at Najm, Qala'at Simaan, Tartous

Lebanon: Tripoli

Cyprus: Kyrenia Citadel, Nicosia Citadel

France: Montajour, Aignes-Mortes, Les Saites-Maries, Les Baux

UK: Caenarvon Castle, Conway Castle, Tintern Abbey, Castle Acre, Lincoln Castle

In addition, there are photographs relating to his article 'Discoveries in Palestine since 1939', which appeared in *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* in 1948, as well as the original photographs for the entire volume of *Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities of Palestine* xiv (1950).

*Maps (PEF/M/CNf)*

Manuscript and published maps of the following areas and subjects:

Lake Tiberias, Transjordan up to the Herodian Period, Roman Palestine  
 Syria during the period of the Crusades, Palestine during the Crusades, Tracing of the  
 Murino Sanuto Map

*Ephemera (PEF/EPH/CNf)*

Postage and photographic packaging of interest.

*Principal publications of C. N. Johns represented in the archive*

Excavations in the Tyropean Valley, Jerusalem. The Coins, *PEF Annual* v, 1927.

Various articles, *QDAP* I, II, III, IV, v, VI, XIV (1923–50).

Article 'Discoveries in Palestine since 1939' *PEQ*, 1948

*Guide to Atlit*, Department of Antiquities, Government of Palestine, 1947

'Atlit', *Encyclopaedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*, Israel Exploration Society, 1963

'Acre', *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1967

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Gibson, S., 1993. 'The C. N. Johns Archive', *PEQ*, 125, 93.

Hamilton, R. W., 1993. 'Obituary, C. N. Johns', *Levant*, 29, iv.

Johns, C. N., 1997. 'Pilgrim's Castle (Atlit), David's tower (Jerusalem) and Qal'at ar-Rabad (Ajlun)', in D. Pringle (ed.), *Variorum Collected Studies Series CS579* (Ashgate).