

From Blueck

Nov. 27, 1932.

Dear Dr. Barton:

I have purposely delayed answering your letter of October 26, until I had completed some soundings at El-Hammeh. Accompanied by Dr. Fisher and Mr. Detweiler, I spent two days there recently, and made a number of soundings. We employed about fifteen men for a day and a half. We found a rich pocket of very interesting Early Bronze and early Middle Bronze pottery, which is very similar to pottery collected by Dr. Albright at Beth-yerah. Dr. Albright had already pointed out this similarity in several places. We were astonished, however, to find out that the entire Bronze Age level had either been completely destroyed and dumped into the Yarmuk during probably the Byzantine period, or that it was limited to a fortress on the northeastern slope of the mound. The only settlement which is left on the mound is a small Byzantine one, there being no trace of a Roman settlement on the mound, although there are very extensive Roman ruins adjacent to the baths in the valley below, in addition to the Roman theatre. The Byzantine staturum is also a very small one, and what with the exposure of the synagogue and some of the adjacent buildings, which has already been accomplished by Dr. Sukenik, there is very little more work to do on the mound itself, and it would be a huge task attempt the excavation of the Roman ruins below, and on the smaller mound, back of the theatre.

There are a number of other important small sites, with which a great deal could be done with two thousand dollars, and I trust that the money can be secured for such a task, whenever another site is chosen. I shall be able to oversee the work in Jerash, and will not let anything else interfere with that.

If there were enough money, the place that should be excavated is Ai. And it is important that it be excavated quickly, before some one else does it, and spoils it in the same way Jericho was spoiled.

All is well here at the School. With the

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CABLE ADDRESS: MONUMENTS

continual fall of the ~~pound~~ pound, I am increasingly glad that the School money is in dollars in the letter of credit, which you gave me. I cash as little as possible on any one occasion.

Dr. Cumming is taking most of the members of the School to Egypt during the Christmas vacation, and I am going with a few of the students on an extended trip through northern Transjordan with Mr. Horsfield.

With heartiest greetings, and best wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year,

I am,

very sincerely yours,

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