

News-Letter No. 2.

February 15, 1938.

Among those who have called at the School since the beginning of the New Year are:

Mr. Cheesman A. Herrick	Girard College, Philadelphia, Pa.
Mr. Michael M. Rix	University College, Oxford, England.
Mr. Robert S. Hardy	Grangeville, Idaho
Sir Aurel Stein	Srinagar, Kashmir
Prof. L. Hennequin	Metz, France
Mohammed Ali Majairi	Amman, Transjordan
Mr. J.W. Hawkins	Ramallah, Palestine
Najib S. Khoury	Jenin, Palestine
Mr. Lankester Harding	Amman, Transjordan
H.E. The High Commissioner of Palestine, General Sir Arthur Grenfell Wauchope	Government House, Jerusalem
Major-General, Mrs. and Miss Wavell	Jerusalem
Captain Creswell	Cairo, Egypt
Lady Edward Spencer Churchill	England
Lady Charles Teggart	Jerusalem
Miss Poston	Jerusalem
Dr. L. Sukenik	Hebrew University, Jerusalem
Dr. D. Brawer	
M. Daniel Schlumberger	Beirut, Lebanon
Mr. Gordon Loud	Megiddo, Palestine

Mr. Bellerby, the architect of the new archaeological survey of Palestine being conducted by Mr. P.L.O. Guy under the auspices of the British School of Archaeology, Jerusalem, and the Palestine Exploration Fund, continues to make his residence at the Hostel of the A.S.O.R., whenever he returns to Jerusalem from archaeological trips with Mr. Guy. Mr. J. Kirkman, a member of the staff of the Tell ed-Duweir expedition spent a week at the Hostel during the first part of February. Dr. J. Newton Davies Professor of Greek at Drew Seminary, Madison, N.J. and Mrs. Davies have taken up their residence in the Hostel for a three months' visit. On Feb. 5th, Dr. and Mrs. S. Iglauer, the parents of Dr. Helen I. Glueck arrived for a visit, leaving again on Feb. 13th. We had gone to Alexandria on Jan. 29th to meet them.

On Jan. 5th, the Palestine Oriental Society met at the Ecole Biblique et Archéologique Française. Dr. B. Maisler read a paper on his excavations at Sheikh Abreiq. On Jan. 26th, the Palestine Oriental Society met in the library of the American School of Oriental Research, and afterwards at the Director's House for tea. The presidential address by Père Couroyer dealt with Egyptian scarabs in general, and Alan Rowe's book A Catalogue of Egyptian Scarabs, Scaraboids, Seals and Amulets in the Palestine Archaeological Museum, in particular. In addition, Nelson Glueck read a paper on Nabataean Syria, and St. H. Stephan on Palestinian Saints and Sanctuaries with Nicknames.

After the return of the School trip to Egypt, participated in by Prof. V.S. McCasland, and Mr. and Mrs. Reed, the second term of lectures began on Jan. 10th. On Jan. 12th Dr. L. Sukenik gave a lecture on "Ancient Synagogues". Dr. W. Canaan is to give a lecture on Palestinian Folklore.

On Jan. 13th, the Palestine Archaeological Museum, built as a result of the munificent Rockefeller gift, was officially opened. The ceremonial preview which was to have been held on Jan. 11th, with the participation of H.E. The High Commissioner was called off because of the brutal murder of Mr. Starkey, the Director of the Tell ed-Duweir excavations. He was killed in the late afternoon of the previous day while on his way to Jerusalem. We went to his funeral instead of to the opening of the Museum. It is with deep melancholy that I notice his firm signature entered in our visitor's book, on Dec. 24th 1937. The excavations are being continued under the direction of Charles Inge, and the advice of Lankester Harding. Mr. Harding is to have the general supervision of the publication of the previous results. He is the best man that could possibly be found for the purpose, because of his close relationship with Starkey and the excavations at Tell ed-Duweir, and because of his own competence. Before Starkey's death, some new hieratic inscriptions had been found, and since then another ostrakon. The four lines are written in ink on a fairly large sherd, which was found in quite a different position than the previously discovered Lachish ostraca.

Excavation permits have been issued by the Palestine Department of Antiquities to Dr. B. Maisler to continue his excavations at Sheikh Abreiq, and to Prof. Sellin and Mr. Stekeweh to undertake some additional clearances at Balatah. On Jan. 11th, Dr. Ernest Mackay, Sir Flinders and Lady Petrie, and other members of their staff left the School for another season of excavations at Tell Ajjul. The permit for the excavations is in Dr. Mackay's name. The rains have prevented much work being done thus far. A letter from Dr. Mackay announces the death of Lady Petrie's cat. The interesting feud between the cat and our dog takes thus an untimely end.

The unusually dry winter was brought to an end by a heavy rainfall on Jan. 14th. Since then the rains have been trying to make up for lost time. On Feb. 11th, Jerusalem was covered with a mantle of snow ~~for~~ a couple of hours.

On Jan. 25th, the Director and Mrs. Glueck were at the High Commissioner's for dinner. On Feb. 10th, His Excellency, accompanied by a large party, which included Major-General Wavell and Captain Creswell, visited the American School of Oriental Research, and viewed the exhibition of the Khirbet et-Tannur sculptures and architectural pieces, which Dr. Fisher had arranged in the library of the School. The exhibition is to remain on display for two weeks. H.E. General Sir Arthur Wauchope is retiring from his office at the end of this month. It is a matter of personal regret to us that this war-bitten general, who has the appearance and sensitive understanding of a poet, is leaving Palestine, after seven years of devoted services to this country. He has been extremely interested in the work of our School, and we are deeply indebted to him for active assistance and understanding encouragement.