

Dec. 26, 1932.

Dear Dr. Montgomery:

Heartiest holiday greetings. We had a most pleasant Christmas dinner yesterday in the Director's house, with all of the members of the School present, with the exception of Dr. Cumming and his son, who have gone to Beirut for a few days. Dr. Fisher and his son David joined us, as did several others who are staying at the School during the Christmas holidays.

I was glad to receive your letter of December 1. Dr. Fisher is pleased with the decision of the joint meeting of the representatives of Yale and the American Schools of Oriental Research to grant him leave of absence in order to direct the Princeton dig at Antioch this coming March to June. From every point of view, I think that it was a decision well taken. Dr. Fisher has just decided to give up his house at Ramallah, and come and stay with us at the School. About three weeks ago, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Rowe moved in and for the present are sharing the Director's house with my wife and me. I shall for the present give Fisher a room in the Annual Professor's Apartment, and assign him one of the sitting rooms, which can be heated, for a work-room. I want to do everything possible to facilitate the completion of his Corpus, which he ought to finish now in about two months more at the most. Perhaps Dr. Fisher will make his home permanently at the School, and take advantage of Dr. Albright's kind offer to share the Director's house with him next year. Whenever the Rowes leave I shall ask Dr. Fisher to come over and live in the Director's house with us.

I shall be happy to take full charge of the work at Jerash, and will of course consult at length with Dr. Fisher in order to get the benefit of his experience and ideas about what ought to be done. However, we are all agreed, I believe, that the main work should be devoted to the final mapping and surveying ~~of~~ ~~the~~ and planning of the entire site and all the buildings of Jerash. I have noted the contents of your letter to Dr. Fisher, a copy of which you sent me. If necessary I would have postponed the el-Hammeh undertaking in order to be free for the work at Jerash, but the plans for el-Hammeh worked out otherwise than expected anyway. The soundings which we made there recently showed that the Bronze Age levels, in which I was particularly interested, were limited to a very small area on the northeastern part of the mound. I have written a preliminary report of these soundings, and have included it in the Report of 1932 Palestinian archaeology, which I am sending to you together with this letter. I am sending a copy to Dr. Albright. He writes me that the report will go directly to Miss Swindler, editor of the AJA, as soon as he has made some excerpts from it for the Bulletin.

I trust that the funds which were to be allocated to the proposed el-Hammeh undertaking, which my soundings have shown to be unnecessary, may be made available later on in the summer, should a feasible small site be determined on, and time and weather permit a small undertaking.

Your idea about the appointment of an architectural fellowship is, I believe, a very excellent one. I should like to nominate Mr. A. Henry Detweiler. His work and character have made a very favorable impression upon me, and I think that the giving him a fellowship for next year, would be a paying investment for American Archaeology in this part of the world. In fact

if Mr. Beidler, of whom Dr. Speiser speaks so well could also be given a fellowship, so much the better. When capable young men are available, who want to devote themselves to archaeology in the Near East, they should be encouraged in every possible way. I am very glad that the Thayer Fellowship is to be given to Dr. Stinespring again next year. He is indeed an excellent man of much promise.

Thank you very much for the copies of the AJA, which you are forwarding to the library.

That the American School is constantly used as a place of study and meeting by archaeologists in the Near East is attested to not only by the constant use made of library by various scholars, but also by the fact that many archaeologists make the School their headquarters when in Jerusalem. Mr. and Mrs. Crowfoot have arrived, and we have had several pleasant meetings together. Mr. and Mrs. Alan Rowe are living here, and Dr. Fisher is about to move in, as already noted above. Several of the members of the Danish expedition stayed here at various times when in Jerusalem. Miss G. Rachel Levy, Miss M.A. Chubb, and Mr. Harold D. Hill, members of the Iraq expedition of the ~~University of Chicago~~ of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago stayed here for a few days in the beginning of November en route to Bagdad. We entertained ~~and~~ Dr. and Mrs. and Miss Nelson, ~~and her son~~ when they stopped off at Jerusalem some time ago on their way to Luxor. Among other scholars who have called at the American School recently are Mr. and Mrs. G. Horsfield, Mr. H. Felconer, a member of Sir Flinders Petrie's staff, which is to work at Tell 'Ajjul, Professor Samuel N. Harper of the University of Chicago, and Professor and Mrs. Brewster of Columbia University. Mrs. Felix Warburg, ~~and~~ her son, Mr. Edwin Warburg, and her niece, Miss Gizela Warburg, have visited the School recently.

This being seemingly the only neutral meeting place in Jerusalem, I have permitted the Palestine branch of the Association of University Women to meet here, following the practice initiated by Professor Burrows. They met here December 15 and 19, and are to meet here again on Jan. 4. Mr. Norman Bentwich, the former attorney-general of Palestine, and now the holder of the Chair of International Relations at the Hebrew University, has requested permission to give four lectures here on the subject of the League of Nations, - to which request I gladly acceded. He also gave a series of lectures at the School last year.

Mr. H.B. Gray, an English artist, stayed in the expedition house in Jerash for several weeks, with my permission, while engaged in making a series of paintings of the site.

On Nov. 23 the Palestine Oriental Society had its first meeting of the year at the Dominican School. Mr. Crowfoot was elected president. I was made a member of the board of directors.

The terrace in the back of the School ~~has~~ has been completed and looks well. Work has been started on the road in the back yard, for which the stones dug up when the new septic tank was made are being used. The dirt dug up is being spread over the gardens, where I am planning to plant 150 trees, in addition to the several hundreds of trees planted by my predecessors.

On Nov. 24 we had Thanksgiving Dinner for the School in the Director's House, with everything from Turkey to cranberry sauce. We are very fortunate in having a most congenial group of serious students, with whom it is a pleasure to work and associate. Dr. ~~Speiser~~ is in every possible way in making the School

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successful in its various aims, and it is a delight to work with him..

Several trips were made by the School during the month of November, others planned for being interfered with or prevented by rain. On November 12 we left Jerusalem at 5:00 A.M., and arrived at el-Hammeh about 10:30 A.M.. In the morning we examined the extensive ruins of the Roman baths, and the theatre, and were shown the excavations of the synagogue on tell el-Hammeh by Dr. E.L. Sukenik, who was just finishing his work there, and who most kindly gave us detailed explanations of his finds. The synagogue had been discovered when soundings were being made on top of the mound for the construction of a police-hut. The synagogue, which faces south, has proven to be especially important, because of their ~~J~~ Judaean-Aramaic inscriptions. They mention the names of the donors, who contributed various sums towards the construction of the synagogue, and also mention the names of the cities from which they came. Capernaum is mentioned among such towns, this being the first time that its name appears in an inscription of the same period. These inscriptions were part of an interesting mosaic floor, which depicted two lions near the Ark of the Law, and was decorated furthermore with cypress trees, flowers, pomegranates, and geometric symbols in its various panels. A fuller report must be left to Dr. Sukenik, and I have therefore made only a passing reference to it in my archaeological report. In the afternoon, Dr. Cumming and the other members of the School party forded the Yarmuk river, and walked up to Umm Qeis, ancient Gadara, and examined the ruins of this Decapolis city. One theatre there is still fairly intact, and is a splendid piece of work. Commanding a wonderful view over the Yarmuk gorge, with the Sea of Galilee visible on a clear day. I had been there a few weeks before with Suleiman Nassif Bey, the concessionaire of the el-Hammeh site, and so I stayed behind in order to examine most thoroughly the mound of el-Hammeh, where I had <sup>already</sup> collected some Early Bronze Age pottery. I picked up quantities of sherds. There were very many Early- and Middle Bronze sherds, and large numbers of Byzantine, Arab, and some Roman sherds. Almost all of the Bronze Age sherds were found in a definitely restricted area on the north-eastern slope. In the late afternoon we all went bathing in the hot-springs. I had visions of digging at el-Hammeh, and bathing in the hot springs morning, noon, and night. An archaeological paradise. The presence of a leper, bathing in the outlet of one of the springs, called to mind the story in II Kings 5 of the Aramean general, Naaman, who finally accepting Elisha's counsel, was cured of his leprosy by bathing seven times in the Jordan. The ground of El-Hammeh is honeycombed with channel and sewers leading to and from the various bath houses. A thoroughgoing excavation of the entire site would reveal the complete plan of a large Roman bathing establishment, with public buildings and sport fields of various kinds. The soundings which we subsequently made on tell el-Hammeh, as I have pointed out in my preliminary report, which I have included in the archaeological report for 1932, confirmed the contention of Dr. Albright, that it was impossible to identify the Hammat mentioned in Egyptian writings of the thirteenth century B.C. with this Tell el-Hammeh on the Yarmuk, as has been sometimes maintained. We spent the night at el-Hammeh, and started out the next morning for Jericho, via the Jordan valley. We were delayed by the necessity of going to Tiberias to get a new tire

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for one of our cars, in place of one, which had been worn so thin, that it began to blow out about every ten kilometres. We then drove to Beisan, where we stopped to examine tell el-Husn, the site of ancient Beth-shan. At about 1:00 P.M., we arrived at Tell es-Sarem, a fine mound, about four miles south of Beisan. We found some Middle Bronze sherds there, and larger number of Late Bronze and Early Iron sherds in approximately equal amounts, a few Iron III and Hellenistic pieces, and a couple of early Arab sherds. A number of flints were also found. A mile and a half farther south we examined Tell -et-Tom, a curious double mound, sometimes called Tell el-Hamra, where we also found some M B sherds, and larger amounts of L B and E I sherds. About five miles still farther south lies the large mound of Tell-el-Hammeh, where we found sherds corresponding to those of the two previously mentioned tulul. On all three mounds we found quantities of L B band-painted ware. Dr. Albright identifies the Hammat, which appears in the lists of Sethos I with this Tell el-Hammeh. This identification seems very likely, while, as we have already noted, that proposed with Tell el-Hammeh on the Yarmuk is impossible, because while we found quantities of Early and Middle Bronze sherds there, not a single Late Bronze sherd was discovered. By the time we got through examining this Tell el-Hammeh in the Jordan Valley it was getting on in the afternoon, so without being able to stop and examine any of the other interesting mounds along our route we had to make straight for Jeicho. Night fell before we arrived there, and then a swift drive up through the hills, and we arrived in Jerusalem in time for dinner.

On Nov. 15, Dr. Cumming and the members of the School drove to Bethlehem, and then walked to the Wadi Khreiton, where they examined the prehistoric caves, in which Monsieur Neuville has made some important discoveries.

On Nov. 21 we started north, but ran into a rain storm near Nablus, and had to turn back. We went to Bethel and then to Ai, before the storm which was coming south caught up to us, and forced us back to Jerusalem.

During the Christmas holidays Dr. Cumming, and most of the members of the School, went to Egypt for a three week stay, and have returned in time to spend Christmas in Jerusalem. Mr. Detweiler, Miss Fuller, my wife and I joined Mr. and Mrs. Horsfield, and Mr. Head, who is Mr. Horsefield's assistant director of Antiquities in Transjordan, and we made an amazingly interesting and, I believe, scientifically important trip lasting ten days through the eastern part of the Transjordan desert. It was a regular expedition, and we had to carry all our food and water and gasoline supplies with us. We were accompanied by an armored car, manned by seven soldiers. I shall just sketch the itinerary now, and in my next letter ~~xxx~~ make a fuller report. We started from Jerash, and went northeast to Mafrak. Then we started south and east, finally landing in the Jebel Tubeik, near the Hedjaz border. The itinerary from Mafrak included Qasr el-Hallibat, Hammâm es-Sarrâh, Qasr Amra, Khvaneh, Qasr Azrak, Tuba, Bair Wells, Umm-Shash, Kilweh, Fort Jaaffer, Maan, and Amman. We discovered a new Nabataean site at Bair Wells, and a completely new settlement at Kilweh, which had hitherto been visited by only one person, namely Captain Glubb of the Arab Legion. At Kilweh we also discovered a hill, covered with carvings of ibexes. The trip was marred on the third last day by a serious accident. In order to get through the very heavy sands, in which the cars were constantly

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sinking, we were forced to put the cars in low gear and then race like the very devil. Mr. Horsfield and his Circassian assistant, Ali, did not hold on sufficiently tight, and when their car hit a bump, they were thrown upwards, and ~~smashed open~~ <sup>were smashed open</sup> their heads, on the strut of the car top. Fortunately we had medical supplies along, and more fortunately we had my wife along, who has only one more year to go before completing her medical training. She put two stitches in the Circassian, who suffered more from shock than anything else, and put ten stitches in a terrible head wound, which Mr. Horsfield refused to have treated till Ali had been taken care of. It took us a day from where the accident happened till we got to Fort Jaaffer, and by the next evening we got to Amman, and put Mr. Horsfield in the hospital there. He is now out of danger, thank God, but I am afraid that for a while he was very near the border line.

So much for the present. With best wishes for the  
New Year,

I am, as ever, most sincerely yours,

Nelson Glueck, Director.

P.S. If there were enough money, the place that should be excavated is Ai. It is important that it be excavated quickly, before some one else, who has it in mind, does it, and spoils it in the same way Jericho is being spoiled.