

Later on in the afternoon, when we got back to Jerusalem, Moshe Dothan and Levi Yitzhak Rachmani of the Israel Archaeological Museum took us through the heavily padlocked and strongly guarded Palestine or Rockefeller Archaeological Museum. It had gotten shot up pretty much, and in some places bullet shells were scattered about. They told us that during the last few days a half dozen or more unexploded shells had been removed. If they had not been duds, the museum would have been destroyed and the invaluable collections smashed to dust. Again, it was like a dream entering the museum. I knew it from the time it was first erected. I remember the day in 1938, I believe, when it was supposed to be dedicated, and we all learned that Starkey had been murdered by some Arab gang while en route from Lachish to the museum. Some of the collections in the museum were partly shattered by bullets hitting the display cases, but others stood comparatively intact. Rachmani has been put in charge of setting things aright again. He has a check list, and in the next weeks or months, he and his assistants will go over every case and every object and see what can be repaired. I last saw the museum in 1947 and believe that it is practically the same, with the exception of the Dead Sea Scrolls material, as it was then. I could remember the position of many of the objects from that time, and very little has been moved. It is a beautiful museum. The Dead Sea Scrolls material has not yet been checked. The writing tables of Qumran have been partly broken but can be repaired again. Some of the Samaria ivories were broken too, I noticed in the rapid survey we made. The boxes which may possibly contain the more or less intact Dead Sea Scrolls have not yet been examined. Assuming that former Jordan Jerusalem remains united with Israel, I guess the authorities will try to keep both the Israel Museum and the Rockefeller Museum open for the public and vary the exhibitions in each or make each place the repository and exhibition place for particular collections or for collections of particular periods.

Nelson Glueck