

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH
JERUSALEM, PALESTINE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

CABLE ADDRESS: MONUMENTS

September 20th, 1934

Dear Nelson:

The Bethel campaign closed September 15th, and we returned to Jerusalem --the five of us who were left in camp. Three of the men are now on a three-day trip through Palestine, mainly at the expense of the expedition. Sellers and three others had left about August 22nd; Kelso left on the 28th.

The main discovery of our season was the final, convincing demonstration that Bethel passed from Canaanite to Israelite hands sometime in the thirteenth century B.C. The contrast between the two Canaanite towns of the Late Bronze ^{and} the Israelite towns which followed them was exceedingly great. In area II we had the sharpest demarcation of strata between Perso-Hellenistic on the one hand and Iron II on the other, and even more striking in some respects, the demarcation between LB II and Iron I. Masonry, art of building, plans, pottery--everything was different. LB II was destroyed by one of the severest conflagration I have ever seen indicated by an excavation. The most important single object discovered was a cylinder seal of Egyptian manufacture, representing Baal and Astarte, with the name of the latter written out in Egyptian characters, from the thirteenth century B.C.

As a result of this discovery I have surrendered my theory of the chronology of the conquest of Central Palestine, and have aligned myself with Père Vincent. Since I have been wobbling with regard to Jericho ever since Garstang's 1933 campaign, this change of view was less difficult than it might have been otherwise. The agreement between Bethel and Tell Beit Mirsim is so striking that I am now ready to adopt a unified view of the Conquest (i.e., relatively speaking), and can doubtless emerge with a paper or monograph on the subject soon.

Mme. Marquet has now cleared a large section of the lower town, as well as much more of the upper one. There is now no further doubt possible with regard to the absence of all occupation of significance between Early Bronze and Iron I, i.e., between about 2000 and about 1800. Our settlement begins at Bethel just af-

ter the destruction of Ai (i.e., within the century or so after the fall of Ai), and continues through all intervening phases down into Iron I, when there were neighboring towns on both sites. The problem of the relation between Bethel and Ai must now be taken up afresh, on the basis of the solid archaeological evidence. I believe myself that Ai has replaced Bethel to some extent in the Hebrew epic tradition.

Sukenik has just made some most interesting discoveries in the tombs of the Kedron Valley. Among his finds are several very important inscriptions.

The School is getting along nicely. The Levy family moved out on Monday, so we are now engaged in cleaning up the apartment, whitewashing, etc., in preparation for the Kraelings, who arrive Sunday. Levy himself is occupying the room next to mine in the director's apartment—as my guest. It has been a pretty expensive business, having the Levys here, and one which nearly disrupted the School on several occasions since they arrived. We calculate that they cost us at least 30 L.P. (in cash) more than they paid for. After all, 56 L.P. is the total of their bill from June 1st to Sept. 17th, for which they received an apartment, a kitchen, garage space, quantities of water, electricity, and servant attention (Abdul quit shortly after you left), besides board for several weeks on different occasions. The amount of breakage and damage is very considerable, amounting to at least eight L.P. We like the Levys very much, and we owe a good deal to him, but we cannot run the risk a second time under any conditions. I couldn't have got them out before the Kraelings came this time if I hadn't talked very candidly indeed to him. He is a decent and a sensible fellow, so we are still on good terms, and I hope we will remain so.

Between Horsfield and Levy we are going to be pushed into some proper publicity. We are now planning articles in the Illustrated London News and the New York Times Magazine, Art and Archaeology, etc.

We have turned the double room No. 2 in the main wing into an office-workroom for the Bethel expedition, next door to the Jerash office. In the hall in front of the offices we have established a very cozy lounge. The Bethel pottery

is in the new shed behind the garage. We have just put in additional shelves under all the tables, together with some higher shelves, and so will have room for all our material. That pottery shed was an uncommonly happy idea.

We have at last contracted for central heating. As you will recall, after Levy sold us the idea, I decided to put it up to the Executive Committee. Then, however, I learned that one of the Kraeling children has just recovered from pneumonia, and that the parents are worried about its health. Furthermore, it became evident that we would have nobody, or virtually nobody in the School this winter unless we put in the central heating which is being installed in so many other places in Jerusalem. Central heating seems to be installed in nearly all new hotels and apartments, as well as in many homes. The Government House in Amman is now having an installation put in! So we went shopping. Eshed wanted L.P. 580 for the installation; Maude asked 420 L.P. for a better one. Moreover, Maude has been in the business of heating engineer for years; he has done most of the best work of the kind in Jerusalem; he has the best stock, and the most capital. So we have made our contract with Maude. There is a good bit more than that amount in the house balance, so we won't have to draw on other School funds at all. The matter should perhaps have been discussed by our committee, but since you already know the situation, and Burrows and McCown are also au courant, while Kraeling will be an exceedingly interested party, I believe that delay would have been imprudent. We are putting in two oil burners, one in each side wing; the system is hot water, low pressure.

There will be a nice little group this autumn, and our attendance will probably be somewhat higher than last autumn--certainly composed of a slightly better group, on the whole.

By the way, don't forget that a check of \$500 for excavations is coming to me from the School this autumn some time. Most of it will be spent on preparing the Bethel material for publication, since we have nearly exhausted our \$3000 for Bethel (half from the School and half from ^Kelso).

Also, don't forget to let me know how you found the intermediate class on the Conte di Savoia this return trip, since I want to return as quickly and cheaply

in tourist class

as possible, but can't stand the vibration of the vessel in question.

With my best regards to Mrs. Glueck, I am

Very sincerely yours,

William

... I decided to put it up to the Executive Committee. Then, however, I learned that one of the Kresling children has just recovered from pneumonia, and that the parents are worried about its health. Furthermore, it became evident that we would have nobody, or virtually nobody in the School this winter unless we put in the central heating which is being installed in so many other buildings in Jerusalem. Central heating seems to be installed in nearly all new hotels and apartments, as well as in many houses. The Government House in Amman is now having an installation put in. So we went shopping. Eshel wanted I.P. 530 for the installation; Maude asked 420 I.P. for a better one. Moreover, Maude has been in the business of heating engineers for years; he has done most of the best work of the kind in Jerusalem; he has the best stock, and the most capital. So we have made our contract with Maude. There is a good bit more than that amount in the house balance so we won't have to draw on other School funds at all. The matter should perhaps have been discussed by our committee, but since you already know the situation, and Barrow and Korman are also en courant, while Kresling will be an exceedingly interested party, I believe that delay would have been imprudent. We are putting in two air heaters, one towards the dining room, the other in the kitchen; low pressure. There will be a nice little group this autumn, and our attendance will probably be somewhat higher than last autumn—certainly composed of a slightly better group, on the whole. By the way, don't forget that a check of \$500 for excavations is coming to us from the School this autumn some time. Most of it will be spent on preparing the Bethel material for publication, since we have nearly exhausted our \$3000 for Bethel (half from the School and half from "also"). Also, don't forget to let me know how you found the intermediate class on the Golan in Bevela this return trip, since I want to return as quickly and cheaply