

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

November 28th (Thanksgiving), 1946

ORIENTAL SEMINARY

Dear Nelson,

Yours of the 17th has been received. I probably wrote you by regular mail in replying to your letter of Oct. 10th (which I do not have here, since I am writing at home), a fact which would account for your not having heard. Now that air-mail rates have been so drastically reduced, it will be easier to write.

I have just returned the corrected galley proof of the December BULLETIN, which contains your article on "Chalcolithic Pottery in Northern Gilead" as well as your annual report. There was no room for the Sukenik article, which I hope to include in the February number, deferring the index to places mentioned in Nos. 81-100. Printing is still exceedingly tight, and Furst has recently lost five of his best men, apparently infected by the same unrest which is playing havoc with reconstruction in this country. The BULLETIN has been reduced one-third in size, and will probably have to be cut to half before we are through, since I want to see the price kept at \$1.00 if at all possible.

Naturally I am very much pleased by your prospective turning down of the presidency of HUC, and hope that you will not regret the action. Of course, it will mean a considerable pecuniary sacrifice, but you will be happier, since I really don't think that you would enjoy the life of a seminary president and spokesman for Reformed Judaism. I can understand that your friends in America have applied heavy pressure to persuade you to accept. I think it is now pretty definite that Burrows will go out to Palestine to take your place. I urged him to do it, pointing out that we had no one else in sight (my own commitments for 1947/8 make it impossible for me to go out). I am hoping that it may be possible for me to go out in the summer of 1949 (1948 is too soon, though I shall scarcely turn an invitation down); I do not plan to go out as director of any expedition henceforth, but rather to go along as archaeological advisor or possibly as joint director, in case the organizer of the expedition is someone whom I know well. However, all of this is highly uncertain, and I have no plans at all in mind at present. I have so much work to do here that I shan't be sorry if I am forced to wait for an even later summer.

Your news-letters are exceedingly interesting and form my principal link with Palestine. I certainly don't envy your situation there, in the midst of so much actual and potential unrest, with the virtual certainty that an Arab revolt will break out as soon as the Jewish revolt has subsided. I shouldn't be at all surprised to see a three-cornered struggle on soon, with a kind of civil war between the factions of the Jewish underground raging simultaneously. Not a bright prospect -- but the <sup>darkest</sup> brightest prospect is always just before the dawn.

Sukenik spent Monday evening and night with us, returning the following morning to New York. He brought a good deal of material with him, all very interesting. That numismatic corpus of Roman Palestine promises to be an undertaking of very great historical, topographical and archaeological value, and I earnestly hope that he can somehow raise the money to complete and publish it. In New York I saw Ehud Ben Yehuda, who has changed immensely, even though the Hebrew Dictionary project remains essentially the same. At \$21.00 a volume I advised our library to wait until the projected cheaper edition comes out.

Tell en-Nasbeh has been lying in the doldrums for the past six months, but I hope the index will be finished soon and that the two volumes will appear next summer. Printing began in the summer of 1944! My Bethel is waiting patiently for the appearance of T.N., since the pottery of the same periods is identical and it would be foolish not to combine the material of the two volumes in elucidating the Bethel material.

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Since Europe has been restored to relatively free postal intercourse I have been very busy corresponding with my old European friends. I hear from a German (!) friend that an international congress of Orientalists is being planned for Paris in 1948. After the last war it took ten years before scholars got together for a congress in our field. But now all European scholars realize the necessity of close international collaboration, and nobody seems to expect a return (just like that) to pre-war conditions, as was confidently expected after the first world war. Certainly there is a great deal of friendliness among scholars, even including the Germans. You have done yeoman service toward international collaboration yourself of late. I haven't tried to do anything except show friendship to individuals. Even some of the men whom I considered as rather hostile have been friendly. Mowinckel got me an honorary degree from Oslo; the Belgians gave me a foreign membership in the Royal Flemish Academy and the Parisians an honorary membership in the Société Asiatique.

I don't know whether I mentioned the enthusiastic reception which your JORDAN has received from Dr. Harris Kirk, our leading Baltimore clergyman and bibliophile; he sings its praises to everyone all the time. Says it is not only fascinating but full of sermon material. I haven't heard anything about sales, but hope that they are keeping up. I am delighted to hear about the Hebrew and Arabic editions.

Cordially,

