

November 10, 1932

Professor James A. Montgomery
6806 Greene Street
Germantown, Philadelphia
U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Montgomery:

I was glad to receive your letter of October 18, and to learn that some hundreds of dollars have been "found", which may be devoted to the proposed work at El-Hammeh. Dr. Sukenik is now excavating the synagogue there, and will probably be finished in a couple of weeks. I am taking the School up there this coming week-end on a Galilee trip, and will then make definite plans, about which I shall inform you in my next letter. There is one hitch which has yet to be regulated. Nassif Bey, the owner of the site, in return for permitting us to dig without charge, and providing us with huts to live in, demands one half of the finds which the Department of Antiquities may leave to us, after they have taken their share. He of course expects that magnificent gold and silver objects will be found. In all events we shall not dig at El-Hammeh till spring.

Thank you very much for your kind offer to complete our file of the American Journal of Archaeology. If you have the volumes of 1915, 1916, 1919, and 1922, we should like very much to have them, as they are missing from our file.

In accordance with your request I am now writing the News Letter covering the archaeological work done in Palestine in 1932, and will send it to you about the last week of December or first week of January. Some very important work has been done this year.

The work here at the School is progressing smoothly. Class-work began October 5. The following regular students are residents at the School:

~~Dr. W. F. Stinespring - Two Brothers Fellow~~
Mr. R. C. Dentan - John Henry Watson Fellow
Mr. H. G. Payne - James Spencer Turner Fellow
Miss A. H. Fuller - Anna D. Kyle Fellow
Dr. K. C. Evans - Thayer Fellow
Mr. Henry Detweiler
Mr. Robert Cumming - Special student

Visiting students:

Miss Muriel Bentwich
Mrs. Stella Ben-Dor

^{W.F.} Dr. Stinespring, the Two Brothers Fellow, attends the classes and participates in the work and trips of the School, but lives outside.

The student-body is an excellent one, and it is gratifying to work with its members in collaboration with Dr. Cumming. We are, among other things, taking advantage of the splendid sherd collections, selected by Dr. Albright, which are in our School museum, to make an intensive study of Palestinian pottery. We are using for text-book Dr. Albright's recently published book on the pottery of Tell Beit Mirsim, which appeared

in the Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research, Vol. XII, and plates of Dr. Fisher's Corpus which he has generously placed at our disposal. I am happy to report that Dr. Fisher's Corpus is about 80 o/o finished. The School makes a trip once a week to some point of archaeological interest, the trip usually taking the entire day. Once a week, usually Tuesday morning, a trip is made to some place in the immediate vicinity of Jerusalem, or to some place in Jerusalem itself. The following trips have been made thus far:

- Oct. 15. Ekron, Yabneh, Asdod, Askalon.
- Oct. 8. Tell Beit Mirsim, Beersheba, Tell el-Fara, Tell Ajjul, Gaza.
- Oct. 11. A walk to the site of the Jebusite city, Virgin's Fountain, Pool of Siloam, En-Rogel.
- Oct. 17. Walk through Siloam tunnel.
- Oct. 21. Beit Jebrin, Vale of Elah, Zakarya, 'Ain-Shems.
- Oct. 29. Beit-Yur, Hebron, Oaks of Mamre.
- Nov. 1. Walk from Artas to Herodium, to Bethlehem.
- Nov. 5. Ramleh, Tul-Karem, Wādi el-Mugharrah (Athlit) - Megiddo.
- Nov. 8. Seilun, Tell en-Nasbeh.

The first inventory ^{in 3 years} of the books in the library, which has been made ~~in the last three years~~, has revealed that a number of books are missing, the whereabouts of which I am now trying to ascertain. Several hundred books had been misplaced. I have now instructed the secretary to make a periodic inventory.

October 16 my wife and I gave a tea for Dr. Cumming, attended by most of the archaeologists and other scholars in town. All groups were invited, and it was a pleasant function. The New Director's House lends itself admirably for just such affairs.

The household is running smoothly. The reduced staff of three servants is functioning as well as when five people were working in the School. I am very fortunate in having "a first-class keeper of the Director of the School", as Dr. Morgenstern put it in a recent letter to me. One of the servants has been detached from the School staff to the Director's house, and we are paying personally her salary and her board-bill. In a word the School is expending about 15 pounds a month less for servants, ~~housekeeper~~, and their maintenance, than in the last couple of years. Even so, with the small number of people living here, I shall be happy if at the end of the academic year the hostel shows no losses. The housekeeper's salary has always been paid from the School account anyway, not from the Hostel account.

The new addition to the septic-tank has finally been completed, and it will no longer be necessary to have the old one emptied every three months or so, at a cost of seven pounds each time. In reply to a recent request of mine, the Department of Forests and Agriculture has informed me that 150 pines and cypresses will be placed at the disposal of the School sometime in December, to be planted in the School grounds.

Inspektor Hans Kjaer, the director of the Danish expedition at Shilo, ~~died~~ died suddenly September 29. It was the result of a violent dysentery, coupled with a very weak heart, and a worn out body. The fear I expressed in my last letter to you about the possibility of the excavations at Shilo coming to an untimely end this season because of Kjaer's illness, was all too well founded. He was a lovely gentleman, whose loss is deeply felt by those of us who came in contact with him, and by all the scholarly world. I had been in close contact with him, and he had evidently reported to his committee in Denmark about the interest of the American School in his work. I received a telegram, and then a long letter from

Dean Ussing in Denmark, asking me to carry on in his place and take over the directorship of the expedition. I am appending a copy of the letter, which speaks for itself. The instructions I received, which conformed with my own interests, was to work in the earlier levels, and ascertain when Shilo was first inhabited, and when the Israelites came there. Dean Ussing telegraphed to the Department of Antiquities proposing my name as director of the Shilo expedition. The permit was granted, and was, after some delay in getting it through the High Commissioner's office, turned over to me. I had been having, meanwhile, all sorts of difficulties with the assistant director, Dr. Aage Schmidt, whose ideas about how the excavations were to proceed did not at all coincide with mine. We finally agreed upon a plan. On the day, however, when Dr. Cumming and I drove out to Shilo with the permit, we were met by Dr. Schmidt, who told us that he no longer intended to abide by the plan and dig in the earlier levels, but desired to work on a church on the site, despite Père Vincent's judgement that the church was not worth exposing. That was contrary to my instructions from Denmark, and to my interests and competence. Dr. Schmidt was going to permit me to dig a ditch here, and a hole there, but forbade me to touch this spot and that wall, and so on. There were two courses left open to me. One was to exercise my authority, have Dr. Schmidt thrown off the premises, and work my own way, and in accordance with my instructions. That was impossible, because he has moral and personal and property rights in Shilo. The other was to close the dig, which I regretfully did. I returned to Jerusalem, and discussed the whole matter with the Director of Antiquities. He applauded my action, and unofficially requested me to keep the permit in my name, till the division of the finds previously made had taken place, and till some sort of a report had been written. He said he could not and would not have any dealings with Schmidt. I agreed to retain the permit, and explained clearly to Schmidt that no more digging was to go on this year. Meanwhile I telegraphed to the Danish Committee, and to Dr. Ingholt of the American University of Beirut, who is their representative in Palestine. Dr. Ingholt came down from Beirut, approved of my actions, and said that if I had gone ahead and dug according to my own judgement, which Fisher and Vincent had agreed with, despite Schmidt, the Danish Committee would have backed me up. All the money has been placed in my name and in Ingholt's and as soon as the architect at Shilo, Schultz, is finished with the copying of some mosaics there, I shall bring the materials at Shilo here to Jerusalem.

Mr. C. M. Hucklesby, who did the survey work at Jerash last year, came to me last month, and asked to be permitted to continue this year, and immediately, because from March on he is engaged to work again on the Government survey of T. J.. I discussed the matter thoroughly with Stinespring and Fisher, and having received Fisher's and Detweiler's opinion with regard to his previous work, have made the following arrangements with him. I am giving him five pounds a month expense money, and am permitting him to hire two men to help him at not more than ten piastres a day. The five pounds are to be deducted from his regular salary, which is to be paid him whenever the Jerash expedition begins. He is living in the expedition building in Jerash, and is making very satisfactory progress in the work of surveying. Mr. Horsfield is in touch with him.

With cordial greetings,

Sincerely yours,