

Antiquity

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Editorial

MENTION has been made in the last few Editorials of the important centenary nature of 1965. 1865 saw the publication of the Baron Bonstetten's *Essai sur les dolmens*, Tylor's *Researches into the Early History of Mankind*, and Lubbock's *Prehistoric Times*, with its introduction of the words Palaeolithic and Neolithic into the language. It saw the death of Henry Christy, and the foundation of the Congrès International d'Anthropologie et d'Archéologie Préhistorique at Spezzia. It also saw the foundation of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and to mark this centenary a special exhibition entitled 'World of the Bible', mounted by the Fund in co-operation with the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, was held in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London from 1st October 1965 until December. It attracted such interested crowds that its original date of closure (28th November) had to be postponed. It was a good exhibition, and, as the Reverend Canon C. B. Mortlock, the present Chairman of the Fund, said in his foreword to the valuable handbook to the exhibition, 'To Miss Olga Tufnell, who carried the organization through all its intricacies and difficulties to ultimate staging, no tribute would be excessive.'

The Palestine Exploration Fund, a society inaugurated at a meeting under the presidency of the Archbishop of York in Willis's Rooms, St James's (they had recently been built on the site of Almack's Assembly Rooms) on 22nd June 1865, has a sonorous and splendid sounding sub-title, namely 'A Society for the Accurate and Systematic Investigation of the

Archaeology, the Topography, the Geology and Physical Geography, the Manners and Customs of the Holy Land for Biblical Illustration.' The January-June 1965 issue of the *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* was devised as a special Centenary Volume, and contains, among other articles, one by Yehoshua Ben-Arieh on 'The Shift of the Outlet of the Jordan at the Southern Shore of Lake Tiberias', and one by Dr Kathleen Kenyon on the 1964 excavations in Jerusalem.

Dr Kenyon has given us the following note on the history of the School in Jerusalem:

The British School in Jerusalem can claim to be the first of a flourishing band of British Schools and Institutes of Archaeology to be established outside Europe. In this, it reflects the interest in the archaeology and history of Palestine which made the Palestine Exploration Fund the earliest of any society concerned with archaeology overseas to be established by *any* country.

The immediate occasion of the formation of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem was the responsibilities undertaken by Britain in accepting the Mandate for Palestine after the First World War. It was clear that among the responsibilities of the Mandatory Power were those of looking after the country's many historic sites and controlling their exploration. The initiative in creating a body that would train archaeologists in Palestinian archaeology and would undertake the exploration and survey of sites was taken jointly by the Palestine Exploration Fund and the British Academy, and in 1919 the School in Jerusalem came into existence.

Governmental concern in the training of archaeologists to staff the Department of

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Antiquities and in the stimulation of research was accepted from the beginning, and the School in Jerusalem became the first School to receive a Treasury Grant. Indeed, in the first stages, the Department of Antiquities and the School were almost inextricably mingled, for they shared the same Director, Professor John Garstang, and used the same building. Under Garstang the School immediately began a vigorous policy of exploration and excavation with especial attention to the coastal towns of Askalon and Dor, the results of which are recorded in the *Bulletin* of the School.

The policy of combining officials and sharing offices seemed at that stage a sensible one to pursue, for the Department lacked trained manpower and the School lacked resources. There was however an unfortunate sequel, for the distinctions between the work of the Department and School became blurred in Treasury eyes. In 1926 the Treasury decided that there were now enough people trained in Palestinian archaeology for it to be no longer necessary to give a grant to the School. In this they failed to recognize that a School has many functions in exploration, excavation and training that lie outside those of a Department, and that the new generation of schools of which that at Jerusalem was the first, could not hope to be viable without government support.

The new Director of the School, J. W. Crowfoot, was therefore left with a difficult task. This he met with a determination to keep the activities of the School alive, but it could no longer have a permanent building, and its physical presence was for 30 years represented only by its useful library, housed in a room most kindly lent by the American School of Oriental Research. The activities of the School were however kept very much alive by a series of important excavations. In 1936 Mr Crowfoot was succeeded as Director by Mr George Kirk, whose period of office was entirely frustrating. The Arab-Jewish troubles that began in that year, the period of the 1939-45 war, and the renewal of Arab-Jewish troubles, culminating in the end of the Mandate in 1948, and the partition of the country, prevented any archaeological work. The continuance of the troubles had the unfortunate result for the School that in 1948, when the Treasury accepted the principle that annual grants should be made to British Schools of Archaeology Abroad, the School in Jerusalem was excepted on the grounds

that no archaeological activities were at the time possible there.

It was indeed not until 1952 that work could again be begun and the School once more became active in the same way as it had been between the two wars, namely with annual excavations but without a School building. The active interest of the Secretary of the British Academy, however, soon succeeded in securing for the School a grant to cover administrative expenses, and under those conditions the School carried out the highly fruitful campaign of excavations at Jericho. In 1956, the Treasury grant was increased to the extent that once more, after an interval of 30 years, the School could have its own headquarters in Jerusalem. From these Headquarters the excavations at Jericho were completed, others at Petra, Beidha and in Transjordan carried out, and another major campaign in Jerusalem begun.

Readers of ANTIQUITY will be grateful to Dr Kenyon, who was herself Director of the British School in Jerusalem from 1951-63, and who conducted the excavations at Jericho and Jerusalem to which she refers, for this interesting and revealing account of the life of the School, which we should remember as we celebrate the centenary of the Palestine Exploration Fund.



A summary of the work of the British School in Jerusalem in 1965 together with summaries of the work of the other six British Schools abroad and the work of the Egypt Exploration Fund will be published in the June 1966 number of ANTIQUITY. In the last three years, since the feature 'British Schools Abroad' was started in March 1962, we have succeeded—by unwillingly hard-pressing willing Directors of Schools already hard-pressed by a multiplicity of other commitments—in getting their copy to us by mid-December. But this time a variety of accidents made it impossible to get all the contributions on time. So 'British Schools Abroad 1965' is in our next number.

That number will also include the first of what we hope will become another annual feature, namely an account of the highlights of the previous year's work of the Archaeology

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Division of the Ordnance Survey. In a letter proposing some such feature Mr R. W. Feachem, who, as most readers already know, succeeded Mr C. W. Phillips as Archaeology Officer of the Ordnance Survey in 1965, wrote:

The Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey has seven field sections at work in various parts of the country, whose task is to investigate on the ground the monuments which have been listed for them at Chessington during preparatory work, which includes the examination of air photographs. It is rather like Commission work but with different emphases. The result is that each year the field sections confirm several interesting new discoveries, including almost always some monuments of kinds that often appear as the raw material of research such as henges, hill-forts, Roman military works and medieval earthworks. In some regions the Surveyor in charge of the field section ventilates some of the year's discoveries in local publications . . . but, apart from this, all new items and modifications of old ones must await the issuing of new editions of maps before they get a public airing. It occurred to me that you might consider the possibility of accepting a suitably brief and largely tabular account of the highlights of each year's work.

We have readily accepted Mr Feachem's excellent suggestion; we know that readers of ANTIQUITY working on British archaeology will find these annual lists of great value.



The World of the Bible exhibition is over, but the Dead Sea Scrolls of Jordan exhibition is still available for visiting by people in Great Britain. It was in the British Museum from 16th December to 29th January, and as these words are published is in the John Rylands Library in Manchester where it will be until 12th March. It will then be in the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, from 28th March to 23rd April, and then in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, from 9th May to 4th June. The genesis of this exhibition took place in the autumn of 1960 in discussions between Professor Henry Detweiler, President of the American Schools of Oriental Research,

Mr R. G. Arneson, then of the American Department of State, and Dr Gus W. Van Beek. The Smithsonian Institution agreed to produce the exhibition and to arrange its tour in the United States; it was formally opened in February 1965, and after seven months in the United States, and one month in Canada, it arrived in England. Following its British tour it will go back to Jordan for permanent display.

It was 18 years ago, in 1947, that seven old rolls of inscribed sheepskin were found by shepherds in a cave near the north-western shore of the Dead Sea in the neighbourhood of Khirbet Qumran. Since then over 500 documents belonging to the Qumran library have been found and from 1951 onwards other finds in four other localities, and in 1963-5 more documents were found in the excavations at Masada. The scrolls themselves can naturally mean little to most people who visit the exhibition, but the exhibition has sections dealing with the discovery of the scrolls, the people of the scrolls and their community, and modern scroll research, showing techniques of preparing scroll fragments for study as well as methods of identification, dating, and interpretation. The American exhibition had a descriptive catalogue by Professor Frank M. Cross entitled *Scrolls from the Wilderness of the Dead Sea*, and in England a modified version of this catalogue, with the same title, is for sale at the British Museum, price three shillings.



The publication of the Vinland Map discovered in the library of Yale shows a large island S.S.W. of Greenland in which appear the St Lawrence Gulf and the Hudson River. This has set all the crackpots going again merrily in their perpetual battle against the Phuddy Duddies. But what new comes out of all this? No one in their senses has ever doubted that the Vikings got further south than Greenland, just as no one in their senses believes they got to Minnesota, at least on the evidence of the forged Kensington stone (ANTIQUITY, 1958, 264). But how far south did they get? Vinland has often been identified as somewhere so far

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south that the Vikings met wild vines, but Professor Tanner of Helsinki in his *Newfoundland-Labrador* (1947) says that *Vinland* means grassland—pasture suitable for cattle. Helge Ingstad of Oslo has been excavating for five seasons between 1960 and 1964 at the site of L'Anse aux Meadows, Cape Norman, Pistolet Bay, on the most northerly point of Newfoundland. We have already referred to this work (ANTIQUITY, 1964, 170) and we now hear that a major campaign of excavation is being mounted this year. Already Ingstad has found Norse ruins and artifacts which were datable on archaeological grounds to about A.D. 1000 and material yielding a C14 date of A.D. 1080 plus/minus 70 has satisfactorily confirmed the archaeological dating.

The locality of Newfoundland coincides, as Dr N. E. Odell pointed out (*The Times*, 20th October 1965, 13), with that shown as Vinland on Sigurd Stefansson's Icelandic map of the 16th century. It begins to look as though the Vikings never got further than Newfoundland and, being unable to hold their own against Indians and Eskimos, were driven out of Vinland. But they preserved a memory of an island south of Greenland, and that island appears on many maps of the 15th and early 16th centuries. Its origin on the maps may not be a legendary history from the Viking voyages and settlements: it might be myth—the myth of Avalon, or St Brandon's Isle, the Fortunate Isles, the Isle of Seven Cities, Atlantis. What is not in dispute is that Antilia was on the map, and Roscanelli's chart which Columbus consulted in 1474 showed it in the direct line from the Canaries to Japan.

Columbus is always said to have been looking for the Indies, but was he not also, perhaps, looking for Antilia? And this he found.

The reopening of the Vinland-Columbus issue has allowed all the mad dogs to bark, and it was not surprising to read that an Italian professor lecturing recently in Florence declared there were traces of Etruscans in British Guiana. And so it goes on in those delicious and dangerous lunatic mazes of archaeology and ancient history, the bogus learning which seems sometimes to discredit serious scholar-

ship and undermine the widespread faith in scientific archaeology as a serious discipline. We have often thought what fun it would be if an experienced scholar took a few weeks off from his main work and wrote clearly and fairly a readable book about all these nonsenses. And now we find, a little belatedly, that it has been done. The book is Robert Wauchope's *Lost Tribes and Sunken Continents* (Chicago University Press, 1962, \$3.95). Wauchope is Director of the Middle American Research Institute and Professor of Anthropology at Tulane. His main works are *Modern Maya Houses, Excavations at Zacualpa, Guatemala*, and *An Archaeological Survey of Northern Georgia*; he is general editor of an eleven-volume *Handbook of Middle American Indians*. He did take time off, and wrote *Lost Tribes and Sunken Continents*, and we must all be grateful to him, not least for his portrait of Roland B. Dixon of the Peabody Museum, whose *The Building of Cultures* was a devastating rebuttal of the Elliot Smith-Perry Egyptocentric hyper-diffusionism. Dixon, he writes:

was a profoundly well-informed anthropologist. It was something of a tradition among his graduate students, year after year, to try to catch him on a point of fact or in the identification of a curio from some exotic culture. Almost every day one could find him standing on the old stone steps of the museum between classes, surrounded by a little knot of his students who had handed him some unusual object—a bit of ornamented bronze, a fragment of carved ivory, a potsherd. Dixon would puff away at his pipe, turn the object over and over in his hands, stare at it deliberately and shake his head endlessly, as if he had never seen anything like it in all his life. Finally after perhaps minutes of this deliberation he would hand it back to the student dejectedly, and mutter, 'Beats me. It's north Cambodian all right—Assam 16th century—but I can't imagine where they got those lotus designs.' A little later a chagrined student would be paying off lost debts in draft beer down at Harvard Square.

Roland Dixon dealt with Elliot Smith: Wauchope deals with all the archaeological crackpots in a masterly fashion and his book is compulsive reading. Another good and fair

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treatment of some of the unreasonable and unreasoning archaeologies is contained in *Ancient Ruins and Archaeology*, by L. Sprague de Camp and Catherine C. de Camp. First published in 1964 in New York by Doubleday and Co., it was published in 1965 in England by the Souvenir Press at 35s. The de Camps deal with 12 topics—Atlantis, Troy, the Pyramids, Ma'rib, Tikal, Stonehenge, Zimbabwe, Tintagel, Machu Picchu, Rapa Nui, Angkor Wat, and Nan Matol; in each case first description, then a review of facts and legendary history, and a fair evaluation of contemporary theories and controversies. When this book first appeared in America the reviewer in *The New York Times* wrote, 'informative and entertaining . . . unusual because of the scornful relish with which the de Camps demolish the absurd theories, fantastic fantasies, and crackpot prophecies . . . a livelier introduction to these ruins and mysteries could not be found.' Wauchope and the de Camps have provided most entertaining reading for the archaeologist and ancient historian.

But their books also make salutary reading, for the archaeologist must always be on the lookout for false archaeology in one of its two forms—falsified facts, or false theories. Our comments on the resurgent interest in France and Switzerland in the possibility of Glözel being genuine (*ANTIQUITY*, 1965, 242) have brought several letters saying 'How can this be?' The answer is a simple one; the whole Glözel affair is a classic example of people seeking the comforts of unreason, eschewing the orthodox line in archaeology (and incidentally this is often a very good thing!), and, being persuaded beforehand of some fact or theory, never again turning back to look or question. Elliot Smith and Co. were the most respectable and apparently scholarly version of all this, and it is interesting to learn from Professor Wauchope that 'Egypt in America' is still a widely held belief in the United States. But examples of the comforts of unreason in archaeology occur every day. Noah's Ark is one and the Druids another.

In 1964 a Mr George Vandeman, chairman of the board of directors of the Archaeological

Research Foundation of New York and secretary of the general council of Seventh-day Adventists, said he was convinced that pieces of wood brought back by an Anglo-American expedition to Mount Ararat, from a site 14,000 ft. up, were part of a giant boat. There were several hundred tons of wood under an ice pack; the timber was tooled and it was a type of oak so hard that electrical blades had been broken in cutting it! Mr Vandeman went on to say that his expedition estimated that Noah's Ark had been a vessel two-thirds the size of the *Queen Mary*!

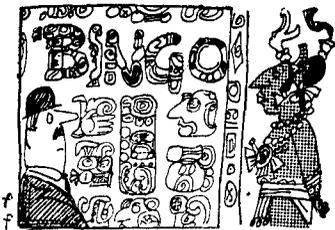
And on 13th September 1965, *The Daily Telegraph* published a remarkable photograph claimed to be the outline impression of Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat: it was 400 ft. long and thus not so far away from the Biblical description of 300 cubits (i.e. 450 ft.). The Photogeological Division of the Overseas Geological Survey at Chessington in Surrey, however, formed the opinion that the boat-like feature was caused by erosion of the volcanic rocks on Mount Ararat perhaps a million years ago. We are sure they are right, but this curious photograph is the very sort of thing which makes those on the edges of the lunatic fringe of archaeology plunge headlong down the lush grass that leads to Atlantis and Tiahuanaco, and by long straight green tracks to Glözel and the Druids at Stonehenge.

Last year, a splinter group of the neo-Druids started up rituals at Hunsbury in Northamptonshire, so this Early Iron Age hillfort must be added to Stonehenge, Primrose Hill and the Tower of London as the secret sacred places of our ancient past. In an interview on Anglia Television, the Chosen Chief of the Stonehenge neo-Druids, when asked why nothing much had been heard of the Druids from the 4th to the 17th centuries A.D., said, 'The Druid is always present: he only emerges when society requires and demands him.' And his predecessor as Chosen Chief told the Heretics Society of Cambridge University that there were two ways to the truth of the past in regard to Stonehenge: one was to read books like Atkinson's *Stonehenge* and study what archaeology had revealed, but the other—and, he

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naturally claimed, the more reliable method—was ‘to go to Stonehenge and lie down there and let the past and its true meaning seep into one’s body and bones’.

Perhaps satire is the best way to deal with these strange people. Shortly after the Italian professor had declared that there were Etruscans in British Guiana, Peter Simple produced a splendid piece entitled ‘Our Aztec Heritage’ (in *The Daily Telegraph* for 2nd November 1965), and we reproduce this here by kind permission of the Editor:



An American historian, Dr Howard Sandstorm, has put forward a new theory that the Aztecs discovered Europe in the Seventh Century. He believes that several expeditions crossed the North Atlantic in stone boats, using the recently devised Aztec stone compass and other navigational aids. Landing on the west coast of Britain they took advantage of the disturbed conditions of the time to push inland to what are now the Midlands, in search of terrain resembling that of their native Central America. Though disappointed in this, they established several colonies in the Stretchford area, Dr Sandstorm believes, before succumbing to the damp conditions and a general feeling of discouragement and of not being quite ‘all there’. His theory is supported by discoveries made by amateur archaeologists in the area during the last few years. These include a small stone fragment of a step-pyramid unearthed during excavations for the new M6 and a piece of obsidian thought to be part of a tear-off stone calendar, found in a transport café at Lampton-on-Hoke. A local scholar, the Reverend J. S. Instep of Nerdley, states in his book, *Our Aztec Heritage*, that there is a recognisable Aztec strain in the Stretchford population even today, and that Aztec customs, such as large-scale human sacrifice, have never completely died out.

As we re-read Wauchope and *Ancient Ruins and Archaeology*, and contemplate those three red files in front of us as we write, marked ‘Lunatics’, the first containing material inherited from O. G. S. Crawford, we remember that *Alice in Wonderland* also celebrated its centenary in 1965, and we mutter ‘Curiouser and Curiouser!’



Our readers may be interested to know that the British Council is now offering U.S.S.R. Exchange Studentships; there are 22 awards for the full academic year 1966–7 and up to six for periods of between three and seven months. This is the first time that U.S.S.R. exchange studentships have been offered; there have been exchange studentships for Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Romania for several years. Information about these and other foreign scholarships is available in the handbook *Scholarships Abroad 1966/67*. Those interested should write to the *Universities Department, The British Council, State House, High Holborn, London W.C.1.*



In their most interesting article on ‘The Ezero Mound in South-East Bulgaria’ which we publish in this issue (p. 33 ff.), Georgiev and Merpert refer to the radiocarbon dates from the mound of Azmak, the excavation of which Georgiev summarized for us last year [*ANTIQUITY*, 1965, 6], and say that now Karanovo V dates to about 3800 B.C. and Karanovo VI to about 3600 B.C. These dates are done in the Berlin C₁₄ laboratory and will be fully published by Dr G. Kohl and Dr Hans Quitta in *Radiocarbon VIII*. Dr Quitta has very kindly allowed us to read this article in advance of publication in America and we quote these sentences from it which will help readers to put the Georgiev-Merpert article in a wide perspective:

Karanovo V and especially VI turn out to be parallel to the beginning of the Vinča-Pločnik stage, the early Gumelnița, Cucuteni and Lengyel civilizations. . . . The vast majority of C₁₄ dates are identical with those of the relative

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chronology based on stratification. According to C14 analysis 18 out of 20 datings of the early Karanovo I/II Culture, for instance, are of the first half of the 5th millennium, while the same number of datings of the stratigraphically later Karanovo V and VI stages date back to between 4000 and 3500 B.C.

We will all eagerly await *Radiocarbon VIII*. This work is part of a research programme of the Institut für Vor- und Frühgeschichte of the German Academy of Sciences on the Neolithic in Central and South-East Europe, working in co-operation with the Institute of Archaeology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia. The Berlin laboratory has many more new dates from south-east Europe: Dr Quitta has offered to summarize them and evaluate their significance for readers of *ANTIQUITY* and this offer we have gladly accepted. We hope to publish his article in the second half of 1966.



Many of our readers may well be going to the VIIth International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences in August of this year.

The date of this conference has been put forward by three days and will now be from 21st to 27th August 1966, instead of 24th to 30th August as formerly announced. Those who have not yet inscribed their membership should write to the *Secretary of the VIIIth Congress, Archaeological Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Science, Letenská 4, Praha 1.*



Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, in conjunction with Glendon Industries Limited, Toronto, is offering a prize of £70 (210 Canadian dollars) for the best original paper on the following subject:

Why do we accept, in the light of the ever growing number of sites and stone tools discovered, the present estimates of population densities in prehistoric times?

A further prize of £10 (30 Canadian dollars) is offered for the best entry on this subject by a person under the age of 21.

Full details and conditions are available from *The Curator, Dorset County Museum, Dorchester, Dorset, England. The closing date for entries is 31st December 1966.*

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