

# EXPEDITION NEWS

## THE LIBYAN EXPEDITION

For the past two years the Museum has continued its researches in Libya at the large ancient city of Leptis Magna. The purpose of this work, of which Dr. Theresa Howard Carter is field director, was to discover the Phoenician origins of this Roman city. Last season, at the edge of the Roman Forum, the foundations of a large Phoenician building dating to the second half of the 7th century B.C. were uncovered. The solid appearance of the building at the lowest level proved the permanent nature of the initial Phoenician settlement at Leptis Magna. Since a search for further Punic buildings would have necessitated cutting through the Roman city which is being restored by the Antiquities Department of Tripolitania in Libya, it was felt advisable to suspend investigation at that site.

This season the Museum is again sponsoring an expedition to the Kingdom of Libya. In this case, the purpose is to locate settlements dating from the Bronze Age, about 1500 to 800 B.C. in the more easterly province of Cyrenaica. This area, rich in Greek and Roman Classical settlements, has been investigated by Italian, British, and American archaeologists for over fifty years. One of the great subjects of interest and conjecture in this area is the existence of caravan settlements from the Bronze Age as well as fortified "towns," both inhabited by ancient Libyans. These people were well known in ancient times, their portraits appearing on numerous New Kingdom monuments in Egypt. Called the *Libu* by the ancient Egyptians, they undoubtedly traded and migrated from the area of the eastern Libyan coast to the fertile Egyptian oasis. Curious Libyan sculptures and so-called "Libyan" villages have been noted recently. No systematic investigation of this coastal plain has been conducted.

The expedition will begin a five weeks' campaign, starting the middle of August, and following the old caravan routes from Bengasi to Derna. Special note will be taken of the sherd and test-sounding evidence that the group hopes to obtain at Ghemines, Martuba, Cyrene, and other sites. Mrs. Carter will again be in charge; the other members of the expedition will be Dr. Emily Townsend Vermeule of Boston University, David Crownover of the University Museum, and William C. Bertolet of the University of Pennsylvania.

## EXHIBITION: UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY

During the summer there has been on view at the Museum an exhibition which, comprising a complete survey of underwater sites as well as finds, presents the impact of digging under the sea, the exciting new branch of archaeology.

The core of the exhibit is a corpus of photographs taken by staff members of the National Geographic Society of underwater operations the world over. Historical attempts at underwater exploration have been outlined as well as underwater equipment. The United States Divers Company has provided the exhibition with the latest "Scuba" diving props.

Early underwater finds include relics dredged up from the Cenote of Sacrifice at Chichen Itza

from 1904 to 1907 by the late E. H. Thompson. These artifacts were lent by the Peabody Museum of Harvard University. From the Instituto Nacional de Antropologia e Historia in Mexico City come other objects from the Sacred Cenote at Dzibilomaltun, Yucatan, recovered by divers in a joint expedition with the National Geographic Society.

Several countries are represented: France in the work of Jacques-Yves Cousteau on Greek ships off Marseilles; Guatemala in the work of Stephen de Borhegyi at Lake Amatitlan and its sacrificial offerings; Turkey in the work of George Bass of the Museum staff off Bodrum on a Homeric and a fine Byzantine wreck; Pitcairn Island in the work of Luis Marden; the pirate harbor of Port Royal, Jamaica in the work of the National Geographic Society; Bermuda in the work of Mendel Peterson of the Smithsonian Institution salvaging relics from a 17th century Virginia Trading Company vessel; Israel in the Link Expedition to Caesarea, and the Lake of Galilee worked by Immanuel Ben-Dor of Emory University finding objects from the time of Christ; Greece in the work of John Hall of the University of Florida, who has been diving off the coast of Olympia for the lost city of Pheia.

The Museum is currently at work at Bodrum where Mr. Bass is continuing the charting and salvage program on the 7th century Byzantine vessel.

After the close of the exhibition in Philadelphia, it will be shown in the new building of the Milwaukee Public Museum and in Explorers' Hall in the Headquarters Building of the National Geographic Society in Washington.

## PUBLICATIONS

There are three recent additions to the *Museum Monographs* series: *The Water System of Gibeon* by James B. Pritchard; *A Racial Study of the West Nakanai* by Daris R. Swindler which is the first volume of the New Britain series, Ward H. Goodenough, editor; and *Sotira* by Porphyrios Dikaiois and others.

An important result of the 1956 and 1957 campaigns of the University Museum—Church School of the Pacific Expedition at el-Jib, the biblical Gibeon, was the recovery of the ancient city's water systems. There are two means by which the inhabitants of Gibeon had access to spring water from within the walled city. One consists of a stepped tunnel which was cut through the rock of the hill from a point within the walled city to the copious spring which issues from the lower part of the hill outside the city wall; the other is a pool-and-stairway cut in the solid rock. Both systems were designed primarily to be used in time of siege, when water carriers were prevented from following their usual, unprotected course to the springs at the base of the hill; but they also provided a more convenient means for procuring water when the city was not menaced by an enemy.

The new monograph by Dr. Pritchard, the field director of the expedition to el-Jib, is a detailed description and discussion of these water systems; it is fully illustrated.

(Continued on page 46)



*Chambër with central column of baked bricks, each marked with a letter of the alphabet, in the Monastery of Saint Michael at Arminna West*

runs thus: "As in the Biblical saying in which the Creator said, 'Adam, thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return,' so the blessed Maria went to rest, who was the daughter of Ptou and the daughter of Maria (?), on the 21st of the month of Hathor (in the year of the martyrs) 637. Her years were 39. The good God gave her rest in the bosom of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, beneath the tree of life which is in the midst of paradise . . . with all His saints, who cried out to God, 'Amen, so be it, Amen.'" A heavy sandstone Greek tombstone found on the bench-like surrounding wall bears the date of year 748 in the era of the martyrs. The two dates correspond to A.D. 921 and 1032, the Greek text consequently being slightly over a century later than the Coptic.

In a rectangular room added to the church on the north a few tantalizing fragments of fresco were found with traces of the representations of saints and Greek labels identifying them. On one of these walls an early Arabic text was crudely scratched at the time of the advent of Islam. The jar sealing of the archaic period from Toshka West and this graffito in Arabic demarcate a span of some four thousand years in Nubia, to the history of which our excavations have contributed details of interest and significance. Of the material finds of the second season, the United Arab Republic exercised its right to reserve twelve objects for its national collections, and the remainder was assigned to the expedition for subsequent division between the University Museum and the Peabody Museum at Yale. 21

EXPEDITION NEWS (Continued from page 13)

*A Racial Study of the West Nakanai* is the first major publication resulting from research undertaken by the University Museum and the Department of Anthropology of the University of Pennsylvania in 1954, when Dr. Goodenough with four graduate students, Mr. Daris R. Swindler, Miss Ann Chowning, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Valentine, studied the West Nakanai people of New Britain Island in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. In this report, Dr. Swindler considers the central problem of the racial position of the West Nakanai—how they fit into the racial scheme of Melanesia; whether they conform to the racial pattern for the rest of Melanesia or whether they represent an intrusive foreign element; whether, in the light of present knowledge, there is sufficient evidence to justify treating the inhabitants of Melanesia as a single geographic race. The data, including anthropometric measurements, anthroposcopic observations, blood samples, and tests for the sickle cell gene, are presented in tabular form. Photographs of West Nakanai individuals are included.

The report on his excavation of *Sotira* for the University Museum completes a trilogy which Dr. Dikaois has devoted to the three main pre-Copper cultural stages in Cyprus as revealed by excavations at Khirokitia, *Sotira*, and Erimi. Of these, Khirokitia is the earliest, Erimi the latest. In a study of archaeological work done on Cyprus before 1930, Dr. Dikaois had noticed that most early sites were in the vicinity of perennial springs. It was while making a survey of modern villages with such springs that he discovered *Sotira* in February, 1934. Beginning in 1947 Dr. Dikaois excavated the site for the University Museum. This Monograph is a detailed account of that work, including a description of the site as a whole and of each of the houses excavated together with a list of the objects found in each level of each house. This description is followed by a discussion and an analysis of *Sotira* and its relation to other prehistoric sites. The main cemetery at *Sotira* was not found, but twelve graves were discovered; these are discussed in an appendix by Dr. J. Lawrence Angel. The monograph is illustrated with more than a hundred plates.