

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Museum Expeditions

The Board of Managers, at their meeting on March 21, agreed to join with the University of Mississippi and the Institute of Archaeology of the University of London in the investigation of Tell Nebi Mend, the ancient Qadesh, Syria, site of the famous battle between the Pharaoh Rameses II and King Muwatallis of the Hittites circa 1300 B.C.

The Board also agreed formally to designate as a University Museum Expedition, the proposed long-term research project at the medieval Benedictine Abbey of St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England which will be undertaken by the Director and Mrs. Birthé Kolbye Biddle.

American Section: Dr. Robert Sharer has returned from Quirigua, Guatemala.

Biblical Archaeology Section: Dr. James B. Pritchard has returned from Beirut, Lebanon where he worked on material from his expedition to Sarepta.

Mediterranean Section: Dr. Donald White will commence his final season of excavation at Cyrene, Libya early in June.

Dr. Keith DeVries will return to Gordion, Turkey for a period of two months to study material from previous years of excavation.

Museum Exhibitions

An exhibition, *Chinese Jades* will open in William Pepper Hall on May 17 and will continue until the end of July. It will include jades belonging to the Museum and other Philadelphia collections.

At Bloomingdale's, Old York and Rydal Roads, Jenkintown, a presentation entitled *India: The Ultimate Fantasy*, includes an exhibition of Indian artifacts from the Museum's South Asia collection.

Hellenic Cruise

The University Museum will have its own Hellenic Cruise in March 1979. Arranged by the Women's Committee in conjunction with

the famous Swan Hellenic Cruises of London, the trip will be for Members only, and is specially planned to include visits to sites excavated by the Museum in Egypt, Cyprus, Israel and Crete.

Departure from Philadelphia, via New York, to Athens will be March 13. Return will be from Venice, via London, arriving Philadelphia on March 30. A special pre-cruise visit to Athens is also planned for March 9 through 14 for those wishing to explore the city in depth and at leisure.

As on all Swan tours, the cruise will be made memorable by a team of Guest Lecturers who will give talks on board and at the sites. On this cruise, there will be at least six lecturers, two more than usual, led by the Director of the University Museum, Professor Martin Biddle, a veteran of many Swan Cruises and including, it is hoped, the Rt. Rev. Robert Runcie, Bishop of St. Albans, also a "Swan Lecturer" of long standing. The team will include University Museum curators and other scholars, and guest lecturers will be accompanied by their wives.

The sites to be visited include Athens, Alexandria, Cairo (for the Pyramids, Gizeh and Memphis), Luxor (for Karnak, Malkata, Dra Abu-el-Naga and the Valley of the Kings), Cyprus (for Curium and Paphos), Israel (for Beth Shan, Gibeon and Jerusalem), Rhodes, Crete (two full days for the palaces, including Knossos, Zakro, Phaistos and Gournia), Pylos (for the Palace of Nestor), and Venice.

The cost per person will be in the region of \$2,200, plus a tax-deductible contribution to the Museum. Members interested in going on the cruise should call Mrs. Margaret Pugh on (215) 386-7400, ext. 224, as soon as possible.

To be able to go, we need 220 firm bookings by August 21: this is a challenge for the Women's Committee and the Museum. Join us and see the scenes of our triumphs in the archaeology of the cradle of civilization.