

from NEAR and FAR BY BEN DOR

2,000 Year-Old Manuscript Found By Bedouin

ONE of the Yishuv's events, in the midst of war: An excerpt of the oldest known biblical manuscript in Hebrew—at least 2,000 years old—was shown at a press conference held by Professor E. L. Sukenik, archaeologist to the Hebrew University and director of the museum of Jewish antiquities.

Yellowish leather fragments were found by a Bedouin recently in a cave near the northern shores of the Dead Sea, west of Jordan. The complete find consisted of a few hundred leather pages in scrolls, wrapped in cloth, covered by a black substance containing bitumen and wax and placed in earthenware jars. Only a few of the scrolls have been examined. Professor Sukenik said that one contained the book of Isaiah, showing slight divergencies both in spelling and wording and texts.

Another contains texts of hymns similar to psalms already known.

At the time these scrolls were written, said Prof. Sukenik, Hebrew was still a leading language in Palestine and one of the books gives picture life—describing war between Jews and others, the Jews called "sons of light" as against "sons of darkness". It describes armies opposing each other—cavalry, infantry, military police and other units.

There are strong indications, said Prof. Sukenik, that the scrolls were written—in delicate Hebrew lettering—by the famous sect of Essenes. However, this supposition can only be confirmed when all the scrolls are opened and closely studied. There are also several quotations from the bible.

The language in which the scrolls are written reminded experts strongly of the latter portions of the Old Testament, and the script is similar to that found in Ossuaries, or in the Uziyah tablet discovered a few years ago by Prof. Sukenik on Mount Olives.

The text in the possession of the Hebrew University was apparently compiled before the Hasmonean era and some parts strongly resembled the Hebrew portions of the Book of Daniel, both in style and writing.

Professor Sukenik said that he knew nothing about South Africa. I think finally what impressed them most about me (if anything) was not my opinions or my errand in Cardiff (I was doing a lecture tour), but my personal acquaintance with Dr. M. C. Myerson, a South African now settled and practising in Cardiff. And what impressed me most was that the daughters of the house were so like South African girls in dress and manner that but for their good Welsh accents I should have thought myself back in Johannesburg.

not all scrolls were in the possession of the University. The Bedouin who had found them sold some to a Bishop in a Syrian convent in the Old City of Jerusalem and endeavours are being made to acquire them.

The Spirit Of Our Times

LESLIE CARR, a pupil of the Hebrew Schools of the United Jewish Reform Congregation, has decided to forego his Barmitzvah reception and to donate 100 guineas to the following institutions:

50 guineas to the United Aged Home in Jerusalem.

50 guineas to the Institute for the Blind in Jerusalem.

Leslie's Barmitzvah will take place at Temple Israel on Saturday, May 8, and his fine gesture is highly commendable. It is interesting to note that Leslie is following the example of his older brother, Denis, who made a similar donation on the occasion of his Barmitzvah in February, 1946.

Lionel Bowman Honoured

LIONEL BOWMAN, the well-known Cape Town pianist, who is at present in London, has been awarded the honorary degree of Associate of the Royal Academy of Music for distinguished ex-students of the Academy.

Recently Mr. Bowman's flat in

London was ransacked and a number of his suitcases and clothes was stolen. Whisky, which was being kept for a farewell party to be given to Mr. Leonard Schach, the Cape Town actor and producer, was also stolen.

Student Helped To Invent Machine

RECENTLY at the University of Cape Town Mr. George Stewart, acting professor of civil engineering, invented a new machine for testing the quality of road stone. This simple device will replace the 10-ton compression tester formerly used.

Mr. Stewart was actively assisted by Mr. L. S. Beinart, a Jewish ex-serviceman student in his final year engineering, who calibrated and tested the new machine.

MONTREAL, April 21.—A suggestion last week by Normand Jaques, anti-Semitic deputy, that the Canadian Government ban the solicitation of Zionist funds for Palestine to-day brought forth a disclosure from the office of External Affairs Minister St. Laurent that Canada has not granted any export licences for the shipment of arms and ammunition to Palestine.

St. Laurent's office said that no arms or ammunition could be exported from Canada without a government permit and added that under present exchange regulations no Canadian funds could be transferred abroad for the purchase of arms and ammunition.

Romance of a Name

By N. Pearlroth

MOWSZOWSKI AND MESSIE

These request names were sent in by Miss B. Mowszowski, 4 Main Court, Bulawayo, and Miss Messie, 67, Ridge Road, Berea, Durban.

THESE two Jewish family names are identical in origin and meaning. They are derived from the name of the most towering figure in Jewish History. I am referring to Moses, the founder of the Jewish race and religion. Mowszowski is Russian for "The Son of Moses" and Messie is an adaptation of the Persian form of Moses. Its original Persian form was Messwi.

According to the Bible the name Moses was believed to have been derived from a Hebrew verb meaning "to pull out of the water". This refers to the famous incident when Pharaoh's daughter discovered the child Moses floating on the river Nile and adopted the foundling as her own.

This etymology has been disputed by Egyptologists. The correct root of the name is the Egyptian word "mesh" meaning "a royal infant" (Prince). It was a title reserved for members of the royal family of Egypt into which Moses had been adopted. In this respect it resembles the Spanish "infante" (child), which is an exclusive attribute of the royal family of Spain.

As the name of the most towering figure of the Jewish race has produced, Moses is the most frequently given of Jewish first names. Like other personal names it became a patronymic and a family name. Other family names derived from Moses are Moss, Moskowitz, Gottesman and Cossman.



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