

The Palestine Orchestra.

Jerusalem.

Although there will be 400 more seats available for the Palestine Philharmonic Orchestra's performances in Tel Aviv this year, the 11 subscription concerts will again have to be repeated three times in the town.

The Orchestra is moving from the Ohel Theatre with its 700 seats to the Ohel Shem Hall, which is being altered to provide accommodation for 1,100 people. The latter hall will have a platform for an orchestra of 80 and a choir of 120 when the alterations, which are costing £9,000, are complete. New seats and special rooms for the artists are being installed.

The budget of the Orchestra, which has reached £84,000, will have to be increased this year, a spokesman said at a press conference recently. There had been a deficit of £10,000 last year, he said, and the Orchestra needed greater public support. Contributions from the Jewish Agency, the Vaad Leumi, and the Tel Aviv Municipality totalled £2,000.

A number of young musicians, mostly born in Palestine, will play with the Orchestra next season, and the programmes will include 15 works by Palestinian composers. One of the new artists is a talented woman violinist who recently arrived from Poland.

Vienna.

The Soviet delegate on the Austrian Treaty Commission has agreed that certain categories of Jewish property taken by the Germans, even if compensated for, do not fall into the category of German assets, and therefore, are not subject to seizure for reparations.

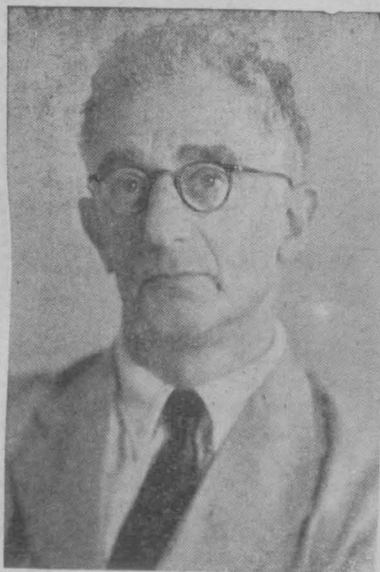
The Soviet stand previously was that only property confiscated from Jews without payment should be returned to the former owners. Under the modifications, the Russians agree that if the entire proceeds from such property were used to pay emigration or other discriminatory taxes, the property should revert to the Jewish owners. There is still no agreement on property for which full compensation was paid.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY CAMPAIGN OPENING OCTOBER 20th, 1947.

Cape Town to Lead Off.

The 1947 Hebrew University Campaign in South Africa will open on Monday, 20th October. The privilege of inaugurating the Campaign and of setting a lead to the rest of the country will on this occasion fall to Cape Town, which is now in the midst of its preparations for this event. The Campaign in Johannesburg will be inaugurated early in November.

The Campaign will be conducted by a strong delegation from Palestine consisting of Sir Leon Simon, C.B., Chairman of the Executive Council of the Hebrew University, who will be accompanied by Lady Simon; Miss Marcia Gitlin, formerly of South Africa and now a resident of Palestine; and Mr. Norman Lourie, also a former South African who now lives in Palestine.



Sir Leon Simon.

This will be the first occasion that Sir Leon will have paid a visit to South Africa, and the presence in this country of so distinguished a Jew and scholar will undoubtedly arouse the greatest interest here.

Miss Gitlin and Mr. Lourie are no strangers to South Africa. Both of them are extremely well known in this country, where they played a foremost



Lady Simon.

part in the Zionist movement for many years. They now come to South Africa direct from Palestine, where Miss Gitlin is attached to the Hebrew University, and where Mr. Lourie settled some years ago with his wife and family.

Miss Gitlin has already arrived in Johannesburg. There can be no doubt that her wide experience in the field of organisational work, coupled with her

intimate knowledge of conditions in Palestine and South Africa, will be an important factor in the success of the Campaign.

Sir Leon and Lady Simon and Mr. Norman Lourie are expected shortly.

CAPE TOWN COMMITTEE.

At a recent meeting of the Friends and contributors of the Hebrew University, the following were elected to the Campaign Committee:—

Presidents: Mr. Justice Herbstein, Prof. Rabbi Israel Abrahams.

Vice-Presidents: Prof. F. Forman, Mr. W. Harris, Dr. C. Resnekov.

Chairmen: Dr. A. Landau, Rabbi Dr. A. T. Shrock, Rabbi D. Sherman.

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. M. H. Goldschmidt, Mrs. S. Sloman.

Hon. Treasurers: Mr. J. Gitlin, Mrs. Mary Segal.

Hon. Secretaries: Miss I. Rabinowitz, Miss V. Sagorsky.

Committee: Cnllr. I. Albow, Mr. M. Astrinsky, Mr. A. E. Abrahams, Mr. M. Aronson, Cnllr. A. Z. Berman, Mr. M. Bobrov, Mr. M. Ben-Arie, Dr. A. Birnbaum, Mr. I. Cohen, Mr. B. A. Crasnow, Mr. Max Cohen, Dr. A. Davis, Mr. B. L. Fine, Mr. A. Feitelberg, Cnllr. L. Gradner, Mr. W. Goldberg, Adv. G. Gordon, Mr. S. L. Gross, Dr. J. Gottlieb, Dr. A. I. Goldberg, Dr. A. Helfet, Mrs. J. Hanson, Dr. I. M. Hurwitz, Mr. J. M. Heneck, Mr. B. W. Hoffmann, Mrs. R. Kahn, Mr. R. Lessem, Mr. S. M. Levin, Dr. L. Mirvish, Mr. P. Marks, Mr. M. N. Marks, Dr. J. W. Rabkin, Mrs. P. Rubin, Adv. L. Rubin, Mr. M. Rothschild, Adv. S. L. Schach, Mr. A. Sagorsky, Mr. A. Sacks, Mr. Leon Segal, Mr. B. Wilder, Mr. M. Wolman, Mr. Ch. Winokur, Mr. J. M. Weinreich.

Ossuaries Throw Light on the Past.

Some Recent Archaeological Findings.

Men may carry their secrets with them to the grave, but modern science has a way of making even corpses speak. In recent decades, skeletons unearthed by archaeologists in Palestine have told a great deal—about those days in which they still wore flesh and breathed, about the customs of the period, about the manner of living and the manner of dying of their fellowmen.

The manner of dying, or, rather, the manner of burial that prevailed among the Jews two thousand years ago has become particularly clear as a result of certain archaeological discoveries, and forms a most interesting subject of study. No polished wooden coffin for our ancestors in those early days. No massive stone sarcophagus. No handsome memorial tablet to record the details of their brief sojourn on this earth. Yet no effort spared to ensure that some vestige of themselves would remain for centuries to come.

The Jew of Palestine two thousand years ago knew only too well the ills to which flesh is heir. He knew it was not flesh that would remain when life had gone but the hard, bony structure which it covered. And it was, apparently, of particular importance to him that something should remain. Perhaps he believed in the possibility of resurrection, perhaps he believed in the vision, described by Ezekiel, of the dry bones coming to life. Whatever the reason, it was the bones of his dead which he took pains to preserve, and not the flesh. When death had done its work, he placed the body in a rock shaft of a hill cave and left it there until it had decomposed. And then only did he perform the ceremony of the burial proper (usually referred to as the "secondary burial"). Reverently—with what reverence one can only guess—he gathered up the bones and placed them in a small, stone box (ossuary) the size of an ordi-

nary child's coffin. He painted the ossuary red or yellow and decorated it further by cutting into its stone side patterns of geometrical or floral design, usually with a rosette as the motif. He inscribed on it the name of the departed and other relevant details. And then, perhaps with a last prayer, he covered the earthly remains of his loved one with a stone lid, and lowered him to his final resting-place among his forefathers.

So much has been learnt from the ossuaries that up till now have come to light, following the discovery of ancient Jewish tombs in various parts of Palestine. Professor E. L. Sukenik, of the Archaeological Department of the Hebrew University, has devoted a considerable amount of study to them, and his findings have appeared in a number of scholarly journals in Hebrew, English and German.

But these discoveries throw light not only on the burial customs of our ancestors in Palestine two thousand years ago. Equally important is the light they shed on other aspects of the life and culture of the period. They tell us, for instance, something about Greek influences prevalent at the time, for many of the names of the dead were of Greek origin, and even the script used was Greek. They tell us something, in particular, about the Hebrew script used at the time of the second Temple. As is known, this was not the ancient Phoenician Hebrew script but the square alphabet which forms the basis of modern Hebrew

writing. The inscriptions on the ossuaries are especially interesting from this point of view. Many of them were obviously done by professional engravers; others bear no such mark of proficient workmanship but were rudely cut into the stone with a sharp instrument. They consist usually of the names of the dead and sometimes, too, their places of origin, their titles and occupations. Up till now several hundred inscriptions have been examined—some in Hebrew, some in Aramaic, some in Greek.

The latest ossuaries to have been discovered are those found towards the end of June this year. The most interesting of them, which is now to be housed in the Museum of Jewish Antiquities of the Hebrew University, is painted yellow and is decorated by the incision into the stone of a seven-petalled rosette and a scalloped border round the edges. On the curved stone lid are roughly scratched two names: Simeon and Jesu (the latter being a common abbreviation of the name Joshua, which was then in popular use). The script is typical of the cursive script of the period, some letters even resembling those used in modern Hebrew writing.

A volume on these ossuary findings since 1850 is at present in the course of preparation by Professor Sukenik. When published it will add considerably to the knowledge already available about the period. But much remains to be told and archaeological study may yet make the ossuaries yield up their full story.