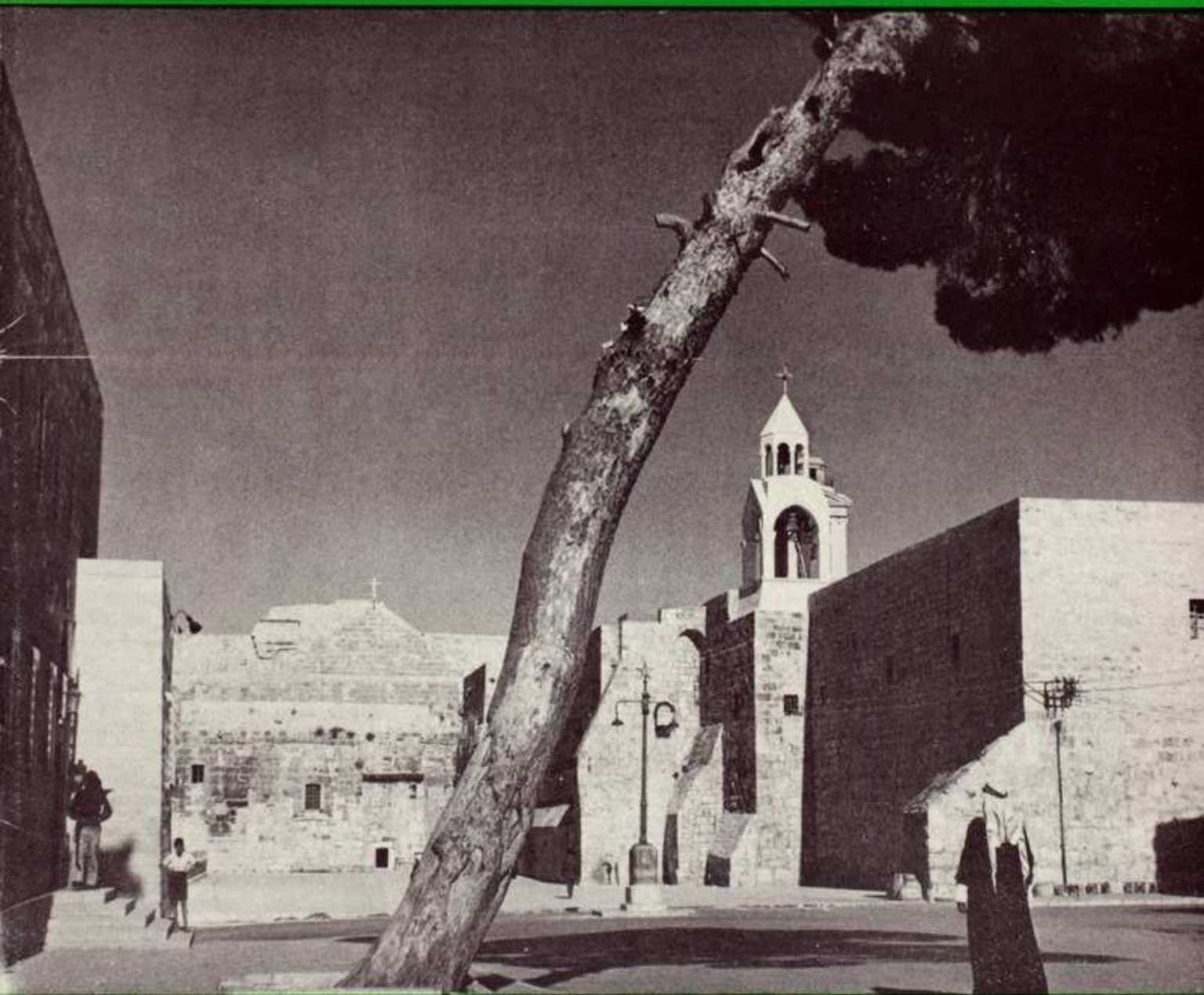


Bulletin of the Near East Society



Basil Mavromichalis

Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

Vol. 5, No. 10

December, 1952



A pipeline from the Middle East to Europe is envisioned in engineering reports released recently by Stephen D. Bechtel, president of the Bechtel Corporation. The project would pipe natural gas a distance of 2,500 miles at an initial cost of \$425,000,000.

Natural gas from such a source would cut European fuel costs in many cases to less than half their present levels, the reports said.

The proposed route from the Middle East to France would run from Kirkuk in Iraq across Turkey, under the Bosphorus near Istanbul, and then proceed through northern Greece to Yugoslavia and Trieste. From there it would cut across northern Italy, pass through the Alps to Austria, southern Germany and on to Paris. Branch laterals about 300 miles long would connect the industrial centers of Europe.

For the first 1,800 miles the line would use thirty-four and thirty-six pipe; for the last 700 miles, twenty-four and twenty-six inch pipe. It would require fifteen compressor stations.

The Bechtel company has engineered and built 9,000 miles of oil and gas pipelines in the United States, Canada, South America and the Middle East. Bechtel International built 854.4 miles on the eastern side of the 1,068 trans-Arabian pipeline which goes from the Arabian oil fields on the Persian Gulf to Sidon, Lebanon.

Premier Mohammed Naguib of Egypt and the delegates of the Sudanese independence parties signed an agreement late in October containing a joint program for the further political development of the Sudan. This agreement represents the successful conclusion of the effort begun early this year to reach an understanding with the Sudanese political groups. The issue, essentially, has been the terms on which the Sudanese and the Egyptians could get together to propose a regime for the Sudan during the period until the Sudan votes one way or the other to determine what its own future will be: Independence or some link with Egypt or possibly the British Commonwealth.

Important elements of the pact are: The Sudanese will have the right to proclaim the Sudan an independent country without any connection whatsoever with either Britain or Egypt if they so choose, the decision to be preceded by a period of home rule; the home rule period will enable the Sudanese to pave the way for full self-determination.

Home rule must be established by December 31 this year, and the agreement specifies that self-determination should take place not later than December 31, 1955.

There was hope, albeit no feeling of certainty, in British circles that the agreement would be a prelude to understanding between Britain and Egypt.

After many threats about breaking diplomatic relations with Britain, Iran's Premier Mohammad Mossa-

deh finally severed the ties which had bound the two countries since 1859. The Swiss Government will protect British interests in Iran and the Swedish Government will look after Iranian affairs in Britain.

A succession of advisers has gone to Iran, presumably to offer suggestions on shoring up the country's tenuous economy. Hjalmer Schacht, the German economist, spent a short time in Tehran in the early fall. Later representatives of the Krupp Company visited the Seven Year Plan Organization in Iran. (German advisers and technical assistants have always been popular in Iran.) Camille Gutt, Belgian economic expert, and five assistants went to Tehran early in November. Mr. Gutt made his trip under the auspices of the United Nations technical assistance program.

Marguerite Higgins, writing in *The New York Herald Tribune* recently from Tehran, said that the Shah's job seems secure, and that he will not be the next Middle Eastern monarch to lose his throne, despite current rumors. Miss Higgins wrote that this assurance came from Premier Mossadegh and his aide, the fanatical religious leader, Ayatollah Kashani. Dr. Mossadegh avowed he had no ambition to become first president of any future Iranian republic and told Miss Higgins that the establishment of a republic was not in the country's interest.

Miss Higgins continued: "The King has set a concrete example to the rich landlords of this country by beginning the distribution to individual peasants of a big portion of the royal estates. American Point Four aid is helping with the royal land reform program by training Iranians of the peasant class to be village supervisors who can help the brand new landowners with techniques of farming and methods."

Syria's new airport at Latakia will be constructed by a Yugoslav Government concern, the Arab News Agency reported recently.

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EXPLORATION IN ATHENS: 1952

"The Athenian Agora: Seed-Bed of Western Thought" by Dr. Thompson appeared in the BULLETIN just one year ago, December 1951. The author is Professor of Classical Archaeology at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and has been Field Director of the Agora excavations under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens since 1945. He joined the excavations staff in 1931.

EDITOR.

In the months of February to July, 1952, the American School of Classical Studies carried out its seventeenth campaign of excavation in the Agora or market place of ancient Athens. The end of the undertaking is now in sight; another season of large-scale work should complete the excavation proper. But there has been no falling off in the interest of the results, those of this year comparing favorably with those of any previous season.

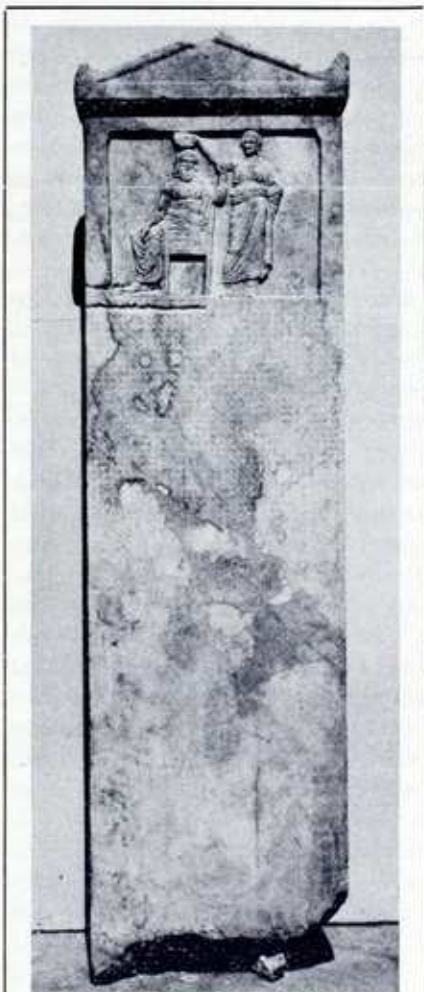
The half dozen veteran members of the staff were this year assisted by the same number of other scholars supported by Fulbright grants, three of the pre-doctoral and three of the senior research category. Their assistance has speeded the work both of excavating and of study. At the same time direct participation in bringing to light and in handling new material should stimulate and freshen these scholars as they return to take up or to resume the teaching of the classics. This working arrangement also forwards the basic aim of the Fulbright program inasmuch as the participants in the excavation find themselves in close, easy and natural contact with Greeks of many stations in life: laborers, technicians, secretaries, scholars, government officials; it would be hard to imagine a more wholesome way of promoting international understanding.

In the field work of the past season new ground was broken at the southeast corner of the square; elsewhere within the square much cleaning up was done in areas which had been hastily laid open between the Wars.

The most significant result of the campaign was the elucidation of the development of the public square. Though this may seem a dull matter when illustrated only with a ground plan, it must be taken into account by all who concern themselves with the history of Athens and it will appeal to those who are prepared to take pleasure or profit from the experience of a small but vigorous com-

munity in providing adequate facilities for the better functioning of an expanding community life.

The season's work brought to light a row of three substantial public buildings of the sixth and fifth centuries B.C. outside and to the south of the extreme southeast corner of the square as it was organized in the later Greek period. The middle building was a public fountain house; its neighbor to the west appears to have housed shops; the original purpose of the third building has still to be fixed. These structures, together with another large fountain previously found at the southwest corner of the square, constituted the southern side of the early public place which now emerges as a plaza of irregular shape some seven acres in area bounded on the west by the administrative buildings of the city state,



American School of Class. Stud. at Athens
**An Athenian law against dictatorship,
336 B. C.**

By HOMER A. THOMPSON

on the north by the Stoa Poikile or Painted Colonnade (just outside the present zone of excavation) and on the east by a straggling fringe of small shops and private houses. This had been the civic centre of Athens in her great days, serving practically all departments of public life: marking, assemblies for political or judicial purposes, the presentation of plays and religious pageants, informal social intercourse.

In time special provision was made for one after another of these public activities. The political assemblies or "town meetings" found a quieter meeting place on the slopes of the Pnyx Hill, a ten minute walk to the southwest. More permanent and comfortable provision for dramatic performances was made by the construction of the Theatre of Dionysos on the sunny, sheltered south slope of the Acropolis. Several buildings were erected around the square to house the frequent meetings of the law courts with their large bodies of jurymen. A square cloister-like market building was begun, but never finished, at the northeast corner of the square.

DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENT

The most dramatic development came in the second century B.C. in consequence of a remarkable increase in Athenian prosperity as a result of more peaceful conditions, and through the magnificent generosity of eastern princes in recognizing their cultural debt to the old city. The scheme of the civic centre was now radically altered by the division of the old square into two through the erection of the Middle Stoa, an enormous hall having a roof supported by columns on all four sides. The large public plaza to the north was reserved for the more seemly departments of public life, answering to Aristotle's "Free Agora" to which "artisans, farmers and such like were to be admitted only if summoned by the magistrates," while the lesser area to the south, well removed from the public buildings and temples but conveniently situated near the middle of the residential district, will have been Aristotle's "Commercial Agora" where actual buying and selling took place. In the middle of the second century the larger square was given more monumental appearance by



American School of Classical Studies at Athens
Marble portrait of a girl, ca. 30 A. D.

the erection, on its east side, of the Stoa of Attalos, a great building combining both shops and roofed promenade in two storeys, and a few years later the west side was adorned by the Metroon in which were housed the state archives. Both these buildings presented marble facades to the square. The Commercial Agora was also developed within the same century by the construction of colonnades, first across its east end and then along its south side; these were modest structures of limestone in keeping with their more utilitarian function. Thus the main lines of the square were fixed for the rest of antiquity and Athens henceforth had a civic centre to match her Acropolis.

New light was also shed by this season's work on the water system of the Agora. The fountain houses at the southwest and southeast corners of the square were fed by a capacious aqueduct which brought water from some as yet unknown source toward the east. From flowing spouts in the fountain houses the citizens drew their drinking water in jars as illustrated in so many contemporary vase-paintings and as still to be seen in Greek villages. The overflow from the fountain houses was carried down through the square in two stone channels, which were punctuated at intervals by dip basins from which water could be bailed for various purposes such as the watering of the trees of which traces have been found at many points in the excavations. Plato prescribed that the overflow of the foun-

tains should be used for watering the groves of the gods, and precisely this arrangement has been revealed by the excavation of the Sanctuary of the Twelve Gods near the northwest corner of the square.

In 1952 a number of early graves and tombs were found beneath the square of classical times: six of them dating from the Late Bronze or Mycenaean period, one from the Early Iron Age. These belong to the extensive early cemetery, already known from the discoveries of previous seasons, which had preceded the Agora in Athens just as an early graveyard had once occupied the site of the Forum in Rome.

ANCIENT WELLS YIELD EVIDENCE

Another fruitful source of evidence for the history of the Agora has been the ancient wells which commonly yield great quantities of household objects, in some cases accumulated over long periods of time, in other cases dumped in the course of cleaning up after catastrophes such as the Persian sack of 480 B.C. In the past season sixteen such wells were cleared with a range in date from the thirteenth century B.C. to the thirteenth century of our era. From two of them came particularly important groups of fine pottery of the seventh century B.C.

Over six thousand marble inscriptions have thus far been found in the Agora. Outstanding among the new pieces of 1952 is a law against dictatorship dating from 336 B.C. The document is inscribed on a marble slab at a height convenient for reading, and the text is illustrated by a relief carved above the lettered surface. The language is stark: "If anyone rises against the democratic form of government in Athens or joins in establishing a dictatorship, any man who kills such a person shall be counted free of guilt. If, however, the democracy should be overthrown and a dictatorship established, the Council of the Areopagus shall hold no meeting and take no action on pain of loss of civil rights and confiscation of property." This second clause was intended, no doubt, to prevent anyone who had achieved dictatorial power *de facto* from acquiring a legal sanction for his position. The law was passed a few months after the Battle of Chaironeia where Philip of Macedon had crushed the combined forces of Thebes

and Athens, and a few weeks before the accession of Alexander the Great. Its object was clearly to forestall any attempt to set up a local dictatorship favorable to the extension of Macedonian power. Like the contemporary speeches of Demosthenes, it illumines the sombre atmosphere in Athens at one of the turning points in the world's history. And the message of the text is graphically emphasized by the little picture above, in which Democracy, personified as a woman, places a wreath on the head of the People of Athens here represented as an old and careworn sovereign from whose hand the sceptre has already slipped.

Military and political power had indeed been lost to Athens, but her intellectual primacy remained unchallenged. In the year after the law against tyranny there was born in Cyprus one Zeno who came to Athens as a merchant at the age of twenty-two. There he fell under the spell of the local philosophers and eventually began himself to teach, meeting his disciples in the Stoa Poikile or Painted Colonnade which closed the north side of the Agora and gave its name, the Stoaic, to the system of thought which was developed in its shade. The core of Zeno's teaching was that the only real good is virtue and the only real evil moral weakness, a dogma which brought comfort to the Greeks in the troublous times that followed on the death of Alexander and which exercised great influence on Roman statesmen of both the Republic and the Empire. That Zeno's fame persisted in the city of his adoption is shown by the appearance of his bust on a medallion from the floor of a plate of early Roman times found last season in the Agora. This vivid miniature makes no attempt to conceal the philosopher's notoriously shabby appearance and sour disposition but it helps us to envisage the intensity of the moral earnestness which sent the message of the Stoa ringing through the ages.

Close in time, though far removed in mood, is another piece of sculpture found in 1952: the portrait head of a girl carved, life size, and with exquisite crispness from a lovely piece of Pentelic marble. The head may be dated from its coiffure late in the Julio-Claudian period (ca. 30 A.D.). The work is suffused with much of that ideal beauty which was another of the chief legacies of classical Greece to us.

History And Summary Of United Nations' Aid To Arab Refugees

By **ROBERT W. THABIT**

The author is American born of Lebanese descent. He is a member of the Bar of the State of New York and will soon receive his LLM in International Law from New York University Law Center. He made this survey especially for the BULLETIN OF THE NEAR EAST SOCIETY.

EDITOR.

The Arab refugee problem was the direct result of the Palestinian war of 1948. The United Nations General Assembly, realizing the dangers inherent in such a dislocation, and believing that the political problems involved would be quickly resolved, created in November 1948, the United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees (UNRPR). Its major function was coordinating the distribution of relief. By the summer of 1949, with no Arab-Israeli reconciliation in view, the United Nations Economic Survey Mission was sent to the Near East with a view to developing a new, perhaps more substantial, long-range program which would solve the problem. As a result of its recommendations the General Assembly, in December 1949, created the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

RELIEF AND WORKS

The core of UNRWA's program, as developed from the Economic Mission's Report, was the gradual reduction of relief as work projects were put into operation. The goals set by the Economic Mission were never achieved by UNRWA. There was a delay in its creation; field operations were not begun until May 1, 1950. The refugees and the Arab states were hard to interest in the projects. Sufficient financial contributions were lacking; UNRWA's Director, Mr. John B. Blandford, in his report to the Sixth General Assembly said, "Foremost among these [many difficulties] was the constant uncertainty as to the availability of funds". Nevertheless, some public roads, afforestation, irrigation, and numerous small crafts projects were instituted. The projects were not of long duration, so that removals from the relief rolls were only temporary in nature. By the end of 1950, since the costs of project-aid were five times that of relief and since the reduction in relief rolls was only temporary, it was soon realized that the Economic Mission's goal of removing 100,000 workers and their families from

relief rolls in one year could not be achieved and that a program of relief and works of the type would not lead to a permanent solution of the refugees' plight. The General Assembly, also recognizing this, reoriented the Agency's goal towards reintegration, but the concept of relief was to continue.

RELIEF AND REINTEGRATION

The new policy of reintegration was coupled with a declaration, in the Resolution of the General Assembly, that the refugee would not prejudice his rights to repatriation or to compensation by accepting the benefits of reintegration. This factor had been, and remains so today, the main deterrent to both refugee and Arab states cooperation, excepting Jordan. Among UNRWA's goals were: the building of durable refugee housing in areas which would permit the refugees to become self-supporting; increasing cultivable land for use of the refugees through irrigation and by tapping underground waters; institution of a loan service for refugees to enable the more enterprising an opportunity to become self-supporting; and a placement service to move the more skilled workers to areas which need them. There was an estimated budget for 1951-52 of \$20 million for relief and a \$30 million reintegration fund.

RELIEF and the "NEW PROGRAMME"

In November of 1951, the Director and the Advisory Commission of UNRWA made a special report to the General Assembly in which a three-year-plan, called the "new programme" (figures in millions) was outlined:

	1951	1952	1953	
	1952	1953	1954	Total
Relief expenditures	\$27*	\$ 18	\$ 5	\$ 50
Reintegration commitments	\$50	\$100	\$50	\$200
Total	\$77	\$118	\$55	\$250

A gradual reduction in relief expenditures was indicated, see above, as reintegration projects come into operation and have a direct effect on the reduction of relief rolls. (* However, due to an increase in costs of relief, the first years' relief allotment was raised to \$27 million.)

The Agency hoped that the Arab states would take over actual field opera-

tions and they would only render financial and technical assistance to the Arab states. The main objectives were to help the refugee obtain housing, either rural or suburban, and employment (large vocational training programs were envisaged in order to remove the refugee from the ration rolls and make of him an economic asset for the benefit of the Near Eastern countries). These recommendations were adopted in January 1952, by the General Assembly as the Agency's "new programme", and were also endorsed by the countries of the Arab League but very strongly opposed by the refugees. During the first year of the new program, approximately \$27 million were expended, as planned, for relief but only 3¼ millions were expended for reintegration from the authorized \$50 million. A direct result has been the failure to reduce relief rolls.

The Ad Hoc Political Committee of the General Assembly recently adopted a resolution, approved by the General Assembly, which authorizes expenditures by the Agency for relief purposes \$23 million for the fiscal year 1952-53 and \$18 million for the fiscal year 1953-54. This is in contrast to the original relief appropriations of \$18 and \$5 millions, see table above, for the same years. The reintegration budget was not changed in any way. In that committee, Mr. Blandford stated that this budget would only



Refugee girls make clothing from flour sacks at a camp in Lebanon.

cover the most urgent relief needs and moreover, *be sufficient only if food prices, among numerous other factors, remain stationary.* He has rejected the notion of depending on continued relief and assured the committee that "two hundred million dollars of economic investment in sound projects with large employment during construction, and with large secondary benefits," still stands as the answer to the futility of relief.

THE PROBLEM

The problem is one of tremendous administrative difficulties. There are now over 860,000 refugees in an area of 100,000 square miles and, at present, under the jurisdiction of at least 5 different sovereignties. Their living conditions are terribly poor and worsen materially every day. Their shelters are ever deteriorating and their clothing is still spoken of as being in "rags and tatters"—a description first used in the UNRWA report of October 1950. The Agency is primarily dependent, because of financial limitations, on voluntary clothing contributions and, while the refugees are appreciative, this source *has proved severely inadequate.* The Agency will pay for shipping contributions overseas.

As of July 1, 1952, the distribution of refugees in the host countries was as follows:

Jordan	470,000
Gaza	204,000
Lebanon	104,000
Syria	84,000

(Israel 19,000 for which UNRWA's responsibility ended on 7-1-52.)

Total 862,000 on 7-1-52

Their exodus from Palestine, because of fear, was so hasty that most left all movable and intangibles behind them. Even many of those who carried their cash monies with them have now become paupers; the glut they have become on local labor markets, and the loss of cultivable lands to those living near Israel's borders are also other factors which have resulted in the creation of "economic refugees". All this, coupled with the fact that the specific areas of settlement are those that have the least economic opportunities for their absorption indicate the magnitude of the problem.

UNRWA'S AID

As far as health is concerned UNRWA, with the cooperation of the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations International Children's Emer-

gency Fund (UNICEF), has been able to maintain nutritional levels of about 1,595 calories in the winter and 1,521 calories during the summer. UNICEF has made a continually-great contribution to the maintenance of this nutritional level by its daily milk rations to 450,000 refugee infants, children, and pregnant and nursing mothers. However, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), considers the body's minimum needs to be 2,200 calories and indicates that UNRWA's ration is at least 600 calories below the recognized minimum. Flour, which is 80% of their ration, has often been complained of to UNRWA. Their diet is void of meat and fresh vegetables, the vitamins of which are essential to the body. This calorific inadequacy of diet is further reduced by the practice of selling part of their ration for fresh vegetables and other necessities, such as clothing, etc. This *low* level of nutrition makes the refugee predisposed to disease. Nor do the very inadequate and crowded living conditions help (e.g.: 50% to 90% of the tents are reportedly in need of renewal before winter) The number of tubercular cases has increased. It was stated by several Arab delegates in the ad hoc political committee that seventy-five UNRWA doctors are each responsible for over 11,000 refugees, and seeing 200 refugees a day will indicate the assuredly superficial treatment received. Contributions of voluntary agencies, such as missionary groups, in providing hospitals and hospital beds have been of great assistance in supplementing UNRWA hospital facilities.

Perhaps the most pressing problem is psychological in nature. Mr. Blandford, in his latest report, spoke of the "psychologically debilitating effect of giving relief over long periods of time, with the consequent development of a professional refugee mentality", as one of the reasons for taking more aggressive action to terminate relief operations. This is doubted by Dr. Izzat Tannous, the distinguished representative of the Arab refugees, who believes that "The refugee was never completely idle since he could not have survived on the \$2.50 ration alone."

In UNRWA's latest report, reference is made to a refugee welfare program to minister to the individual's needs. There are arts, and crafts, and sewing centers

for the girls. There is a placement branch which places qualified refugees and analyzes refugee-skills so as to give advice to the large vocational training programs now in action. It is hoped that in this manner the refugee will maintain old skills or develop new skills.

Registration of deaths, and the artifices developed by the refugees in order to manipulate relief rolls, is an administrative problem. Nevertheless, the reduction of relief rolls goes on in an effort to reduce the total international burden.

With regard to education, UNRWA's main interest has been primary education, that is, to the fifth grade, in UNRWA-UNESCO schools. The number of schools rose from 848 in 1951 to 955 in 1952. The syllabus used is virtually the same as is used in government schools in the respective country. A new element of instruction being introduced is pre-vocational training. The number of students in these schools is about 51,000, while 47,000 additional refugee children receive primary education in government and private schools. The latter receive some UNRWA-UNESCO financial aid. In this manner no more than two-thirds of the refugee children of school age are accommodated, which is inadequate. Costs per child have been kept to a little over \$11 per annum on a budget of over \$400,000 or 1/2 of 1% of the Agency's average annual budget. Naturally such costs do not give the refugees anything approaching ideal schools, equipment, or staff.

In addition to primary schools there are a few secondary schools in Gaza. Some grants-in-aid have been given to refugee students at various Near Eastern universities. Large scale vocational training programs for over 5,000 refugee students under a \$5 million program are now in operation in three host countries. There is also a fundamental adult educational program in operation.

CONCLUSIONS

Dr. Tannous, at the close of his statement before the Ad Hoc Political Committee made the following remarks: "There are many *irregularities* in the administration of the UNRWA which must be *eliminated*" . . . "A special additional budget must be assigned to the medical and educational services of UNRWA".

(Continued on page 10)

A New Tradition in an Ancient Land

By MILDRED J. MILLER

The author is the wife of Alvah L. Miller, former General Secretary of the Jerusalem Y.M.C.A., and now head of the Near East Society. EDITOR.

A rough field-stone wall surrounds some ten acres of rolling land located about three-quarters of a mile below Bethlehem, as the Judean hills stretch towards the Dead Sea to the East. Those acres are well named "Tel Boaz" for it was somewhere in that area that Ruth, the Moabitess, gleaned in the fields of Boaz. It was Ruth and Boaz who became the ancestors of Jesse and of his son, David, who became king of Judah. This plot of ground was purchased after the first world war by the Jerusalem Y. M. C. A., so that Tel Boaz as a particular site has existed for only thirty years. Yet already it has achieved the significance of becoming a tradition in an ancient land that abounds in traditions.

It was on such a stretch of rolling ground that shepherds would have been grazing their flocks in the long ago below the little town of Bethlehem, when the angels sang their heavenly music. It was into the war-torn privilege-ridden world of that day that they brought their message of peace on earth and bespoke the ideal of good will among men for which the world is still seeking and seems so far from realizing. As men were clearing the few acres of Tel Boaz of rock in order to build the stone wall and make possible the planting of pine seedlings and other trees and shrubs, a cave was discovered. It was full of the debris of centuries but perseverance in clearing it disclosed two large rooms. Niches around the walls were filled with potshards and ruined remains of the occupants of that simple shelter, including a small sarcophagus. These scant fragments of life from another age, which scholars can use to interpret history, were gathered together and sent up to the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem. They reported the shards to date the cave as occupied about two thousand years ago!

Imagination quickly pieced these facts together and Tel Boaz became the "Field of the Shepherds" to all Christians not members of the ancient churches. (The ancient churches had long ago laid claim to other "Fields".) A simple rite was



"Shepherd's meal" at Tel Boaz, Christmas Eve 1951

instituted which has grown in impressiveness through the years. It is held on Christmas Eve and brings Christians from all parts of the world together (and soon drew visitors and tourists) to make the pilgrimage to Tel Boaz and to attend the service. At the mouth of the cave a taboun oven was made by building an oven-shaped receptacle of stone. A fire is built within the enclosure and when reduced to a bed of coals a pan of lamb meat which has been cut up and seasoned is placed in the oven and the opening is sealed. There the meat remains for several hours. Towards late afternoon as crowds gather, flat loaves of bread from Bethlehem are cut in pie-shaped pieces. The bread is then broken open and the cooked meat is placed within, making a pie-shaped sandwich. All partake of this simple "shepherd's meal". As the sun sets over the Judean hills the crowd moves to an open space around a fire and continues their service. The same beginning to the service is always used. As the lights are turned on, one by one in Bethlehem, situated in plain sight upon the hill-top, all join in singing the immortal carol of Phillips Brooks:

"O little Town of Bethlehem!
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight."

In the continuing service those gathered hear again the old, old story of the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks and of the birth of the Christ-child in Bethlehem.

Then followed a series of changes at Tel Boaz. When the early war years brought as many as from 200-400 men in uniform who wished to join in the service on Christmas Eve, the shepherd's meal had to be omitted. Again in the later war years when Palestine was a leave center for men of the Allied armies, to have one's leave at Christmas time and to have it in Jerusalem, was especially welcome. Men came from all the Mediterranean bases, from East and West Africa, from Italy, and Iraq and Iran; there were Christians from India, Africa, all the countries of Europe, the U. S. and

(Continued on page 10)

Near East Camera

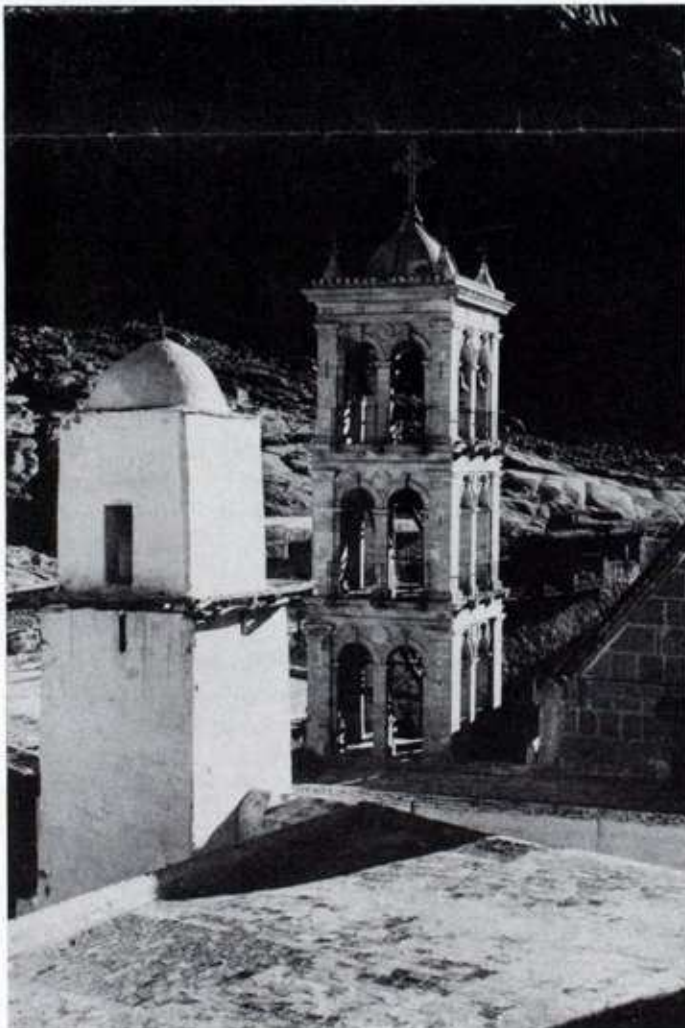
Among the many historic edifices in which the Middle East abounds there are three structures which survive as monuments to the faith established by Christ so many centuries ago in that part of the world. The years have endowed them with tradition and apocryphal lore, and still intact through the transitions of weather and war and peace, they stand to remind us at this Christmas season of the durability of man's belief.

The Monastery of St. Catherine at Mount Sinai in Egypt (see cover picture October 1952 BULLETIN) is distinguished by the juxtaposition of a cathedral and a mosque (see photograph below). The cathedral dates from the years 561 to 565 when Justinian founded the building in commemoration of his wife, Theodora, and the mosque is a Fatimid foundation built in 1106. At the right, worshippers find inspiration in the sunlit interior of the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem.



Turkish Information Office

The proud lines of Hagia Sophia (Divine Wisdom) dominate a site where the Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorous join in Istanbul. A museum since 1935, the church dates from 347 when the original building, started by Constantine, was completed. Justinian built the present structure in 537. The famed mosaics of Hagia Sophia, plastered over by the Turks after they took Constantinople in 1453, have come to light again, through the efforts of the late Thomas Whittemore and the cooperation of the Turkish Government.



Octave Romaine



The Matton Photo Service



H. H. Kreider

Professor Lynn A. Scipio, Dean of Robert College School of Engineering, 1912-42.

Former Engineering Dean Visits Robert College

By HERBERT H. LANE

One of the most inspiring and satisfying moments in the life of a teacher is when he comes back to see the successful fruits of his years of labor. That opportunity was afforded Dr. Lynn Adolphus Scipio this fall when he was invited to Istanbul to join in celebrating the fortieth anniversary of Robert College School of Engineering, of which he had been dean for three decades (1912-42).

Arriving in Istanbul on September 16 with his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth S. Fisher, Dr. Scipio was widely received by groups which included engineering alumni in both Ankara and Istanbul, all of whom are now extremely busy men, Dr. Scipio was pleased to note, engaged either in government enterprises or in private business. Engineers have always been in demand in Turkey; but today, with hundreds of government projects underway, Robert College Engineers have been particularly in demand both because of their skill in their profession

and their ability to use two languages with ease.

As Dean of Robert College School of Engineering, Dr. Scipio had carried the school through some of the most trying moments of the twentieth century. Only two years after it had opened, the First World War broke out and many of the students were called up for military service. Yet the school managed to survive, and in a period of seven years Dr. Scipio was able to announce that the enrollment had been increased to over a hundred. On leave of absence in the United States during the year 1920-21, Dr. Scipio served as director of the American Heating and Ventilating Engineering Research Laboratory of the U. S. Bureau of Mines. Returning to Istanbul after one year, he settled down to guide the fledgling engineering school through a world-wide depression and through the first few years of World War II. These experiences were enough to try any man's soul, but on looking back, Dr. Scipio

WHAT IS IT?

The story back of the photograph on page 12 chalks up another service in the Near East Foundation's long and notable record of helping people to help themselves. In the picture, Theodore H. Noe, director of the Foundation's program in Iran, is shown shaking hands with an Iranian villager who has just received a document according him possession of 500 trees, at a party to celebrate the event.

The tree planting was a joint venture of the Foundation and the Point Four program and took place at Mamazan, a village near Tehran, some month ago. The average village in Iran is virtually without trees, as is the surrounding country. Since there is no wood, the villagers have long used fertilizer pressed into flat cakes, then dried, for heating purposes. This has meant a dearth of fertilizer for crops which are not as productive as they should be. For some time Foundation staff members have tried to find a solution to the fuel and fertilizer problem. Point Four officials suggested that the Foundation workers have the villagers plant ailanthus trees, often called "Tree of heaven". The tree requires only one good irrigation a year and matures in five years.

A plan was worked out with the landlords of Mamazan whereby they donated several hectares of land. The villagers were asked to furnish the labor. Each peasant in the project planted 500 trees; these trees belong to him. In return he has agreed to use animal refuse on his crops.

could take satisfaction in the work being done by the graduates.

In 1943 Dr. Scipio retired and went to Washington, D. C., as head engineer of the War Production Board (1943-44) and later as Industrial Rehabilitation Specialist of UNRRA (1945-47). These were rewards that awaited any successful specialist. But Dr. Scipio's real satisfaction lay in what he had accomplished in the thirty years he had been in Turkey. In addition to the burdens he carried as Dean of the School of Engineering, he wrote and published the first *English-Turkish Technical Dictionary* (1939).

(Mr. Lane is on the faculty of Robert College. For other news of Dean Scipio and the Engineering School, see "Forty Years of Service" in the BULLETIN for last September.)

EDITOR.



L. S. Moore

Picture shows the mountain road recently constructed by the Turkish Road Department along the Great Zab river in the extreme southeast of Asia Minor, some distance above the point where Xenophon crossed with his "ten thousand" Greeks on retreat after the defeat of Cyrus' western army in Persia. This road replaces the narrow trail for pack animals cut along the face of the palisades at dizzy heights above the river and which from time immemorial had furnished the main line of access to the center of the Jilo mountain area, the Hakkari of today. Mihail Arocioglu, Robert College Engineering graduate '35, superintended the completion of the road which entailed cutting down eleven palisade projections to river level.

A NEW TRADITION IN AN ANCIENT LAND

(Continued from page 7)

Canada. In 1945 so many of the Armed Forces wished to go to the service at Tel Boaz that all civilians were excluded and the Chaplains of the Allied Forces took charge. It was estimated that close to eight thousand men went to Bethlehem and trucks lined the paved road on the hill-top for a mile. The weather had been rainy and the ground softened, too soft for heavy trucks to leave the pavements, so the last mile to Tel Boaz was made on foot. Loud speakers carried the voices of the chaplains to the crowd of men and the singing of the familiar carols by the men filled the air. In closing when the chaplain said, 'Let us pray', it was a great majority of the men who, despite the damp ground, dropped to their knees to honor the Child-King born in a manger in Bethlehem, so long ago. Many letters from far corners of the earth brought back messages from these men who felt that to be in Tel Boaz on Christmas Eve was a very special privilege.

The World War ended. Allied troops departed and war came to Palestine. The road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem could no longer be travelled. It remains so today. Barbed wire and armed patrols cut the road. People on the Israeli side of Jerusalem were unable to go to Bethle-

hem. And across on the Arab side it was necessary to make new roads to connect Arab Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Old paths and little used roads became the basis of the new. It dipped down into three valleys and climbed the hills again. It was three times longer than the old road connecting the towns. But the new road, in its completed state, well paved and now much used, passes the acres of Tel Boaz. No longer, as formerly, is it shut away from motor traffic because of the weather and the mud. Again in 1950 Christmas services were resumed. Arab Christian residents of the area, missionaries from churches of many denominations, visitors and tourists made up the group. Again the simple shepherd's meal was served at the mouth of the 2,000 year old cave. The pine seedlings which were set out in the fields by devoted members of the staff of the Y. M. C. A., now form a lovely grove which shelters the worshippers from the winter winds. Vines and fruit trees grow about the place making it productive of the fruit of the land. But today in and around Bethlehem human needs are foremost. Camps of Arab refugees, who are experiencing direst poverty, stand round about Tel Boaz. The need of the boys of the land is very great. If there were but a few simple buildings and tents available that might be pitched in the

pine grove, there would develop a Tel Boaz Boys' Camp. There looking towards Bethlehem on one side and towards Jerusalem on the other the new youth of that ancient land could learn of the matchless character Who once walked those roads and climbed those hills. Learning of His kindness, His consideration for other people, His ideal of justice and honorable dealings between men, they might grow up inspired to eradicate the hatred and ill-will the latter years' experiences and the suffering of their people has engendered. For only as men draw near to worship the Christ, born a babe in Bethlehem, can they hear again the heavenly music in their hearts and dare hope for peace on earth.

U. N. AID TO ARAB REFUGEES

(Continued from page 6)

... He also stressed the inclusion of "economic refugees" with those now cared for by UNRWA, and stated that the above are very serious matters and should be earnestly considered by the Director.

(See next page)

NECA MOVES OFFICES

The offices of the Near East Society and the Near East College Association were moved December 1 from 46 Cedar Street in New York to Room 521, 40 Worth Street, New York 13, New York.

Near East Society Bulletin

A society building mutual understanding between the peoples of the Near East and America, sponsored by the Near East College Association and the Near East Foundation.

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U. N. AID TO ARAB REFUGEES

(Continued from page 10)

As for reintegration, Dr. Tannous characterized this before the committee as being a form of "permanent exile". He said, "Rightly or wrongly, the refugees believe that this scheme of reintegration in all countries but their own is a plan carefully worked out by those sponsoring it to resettle within three years all the refugees outside their homes forever." He has also said that the only acceptable basis of settling the problem politically seems to lie in the implementation of the U.N. General Assembly resolution which grants the right of repatriation to those so desiring it, as well as compensation. Despite this extreme position of both refugees and Arab states, the "new programme" has actually begun to operate. A large scale project, which will enable 100,000 refugees to become self-supporting in Jordan, is now under construction. Large projects (first mentioned in UNRWA's latest report), should be given priority, for only on such a scale can reintegration accomplish the necessary results. A spirit of cooperation on the part of refugees and states concerned is essential for the success of the program.

UNRWA's expressed desire to turn over operations to the local governments as soon as possible could stifle reintegration. It might be wiser to delay such a move unless effective financial and administrative controls are to be retained by UNRWA to ensure success of the program.

Of all the Arab states involved, Jordan seems to be the one most interested in actually assisting the refugees. However, the other Arab states are generally cooperative and it is hoped that greater co-operation will develop in the future. Israel, as of July 1st, 1952, is now taking complete care of all "Arab refugees" in that country. Iraq had done so earlier for the 5,000 refugees in that country. Libya is to be commended for requesting some 1,200 families for settlement from among the Arab refugees.

The current fiscal year will be decisive, for the Agency has its biggest opportunity, "financially to commit and to expend during the current fiscal year [ending June 30, 1953] \$100 million," for real accomplishments. If all the parties involved do their utmost to pull together, a real effect may be felt in the refugee

camp by next year. If not, the General Assembly may have to re-extend, revitalize, and in general expand the financial structure of the Agency, for it seems that reintegration becomes more difficult and more costly each year it is delayed. It is also to be noted with concern that commitments of many of the contributing states are made with conditions attached. This could cripple operations. The Agency should be the one to decide what a particular contribution is to be used for. Similarly, failure of nation states to pay their commitments to the Agency should be severely condemned by the General Assembly for the problems before the Agency are too numerous without unnecessary complications resulting from the lack of, or the uncertainty of available funds.

On the whole, the Agency has a very difficult task to perform in the face of so many natural and political obstacles and it must be noted that no real or ultimate solution of the political problem is within the Agency's power since that was expressly excluded from its jurisdiction by the General Assembly. However, to achieve success of the UNRWA program, one can say no more than Mr. Blandford has said before the Ad Hoc Political Committee:

"Open acquiescence and full cooperation of the governments of the area.

Sustained interest and generosity of contributing governments.

Understanding of the program by the refugees and their leadership.

Administrative effectiveness and flexibility on the part of the Agency."

Christmas

From one of our readers comes this letter of reflection on the spirit of the season.

EDITOR.

What does Christmas mean to you? The giving of presents, the reunion of friends and relatives, abundant food, snow and sleigh bells, the traditional tree? Probably with all of these usual Yuletide symbols, come thoughts of good will toward your fellow men.

Do you set aside a few moments at this season to visualize in your mind the first Christmas more than nineteen hundred years ago? Find yourself a quiet spot, perhaps your church, put aside worldly thoughts, close your eyes and be carried back to the dawn of the Christian era.

You are traveling backward in time by the speediest method of transportation, your own thoughts. You arrive in a small village in the Near East, in a country later to be called Palestine. A large bright star hangs low in the heavens, and seems to be pointing to a particular place. What is it? Why has this star seen fit to shine on *this* one spot, in a shabby little village in a lonely countryside? Your curiosity gets the better of you, and you approach the building over which the star hovers.

It is an inn, but the star seems directed to the stable nearby, where a young mother lies with her new-born infant. Who are all the people kneeling around the pair? What is the reason for the adulation, and the sound of music and a heavenly chorus? Then as the chorus soars: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men," you realize you are present at the birth of the Prince of Peace.

A glowing feeling envelops you, and you feel as if you too could burst into song. You want to share your feeling with the whole world. If only you could. Think what this feeling of exaltation would mean to soldiers entrenched in the barren hills of Korea, to the thousands of homeless and stateless, wandering the world as refugees, to the millions of people who have an antipathy for each other, yet do not know one another.

I can't tell you where you should start to spread this newly-acquired feeling of yours, I just don't know. Since perhaps you cannot reach large groups of people, maybe just a day-to-day application of the Saviour's characteristic of thoughtfulness and consideration for those around Him might help; I don't know. I wish I did.

AIRLIFT AFTERMATH

A fund for educational and charitable work among Lebanese Moslems is \$200,000 richer because the U. S. Air Force refused payment for the transportation to Mecca it gave stranded pilgrims last August. American Ambassador to the Lebanon Harold B. Minor, in presenting the amount, said: "I do not wish to direct how this money is to be spent except to request that it be allocated to Moslem charitable, educational and philanthropic work where its return will be of value and of lasting nature."



Modern Bethlehem appears in this photograph taken by Dr. J. Lane Miller, who with his wife, is co-author of HARPER'S BIBLE DICTIONARY published last October. Bethlehem is about six miles south of Jerusalem and has a normal population of approximately 10,000.

The Bethlehem district is the scene of the story of Ruth and the youth of David. It was garrisoned by the Philistines at the time of Saul. Rehoboam fortified the town and in 586 B. C. the murderers of Gedaliah rested in its great khan (Chimham) on their flight to Egypt.

Bethlehem emerged gloriously from the obscurity into which it fell during Old Testament times as the birthplace of The Babe of Bethlehem and its name is forever radiant with Nativity association. Pilgrims from all over the world worship at the Grotto in the Church of the Nativity where tradition says that the Saviour was born.

In 315 the village was little more than a wilderness but with the building of the original Church of the Nativity in 330, by Helena, Mother of the Emperor Constantine, the never-ending procession of pilgrims has made Bethlehem a cherished shrine.

Justinian enclosed the town with a wall in 531. The Persians spared the town in 614 as did the Arabs in 636. The Crusaders in their advance on Jerusalem occupied it at the invitation of the inhabitants in 1099.

Bethlehem was elevated to a Latin Bishopric in 1110, passed to the Moslems in 1187, restored to the Christians through treaty (1229-44). The Greek Church made it an episcopal see in the 14th century and in the 17th century the Armenians did the same.

In 1489 the city wall and towers were demolished and the meat surrounding the town was filled in by order of the Sultan. Ibrahim Pasha laid waste the Moslem quarter in 1834 as a punishment for a Moslem insurrection. Bethlehem fell to the British at the time of the capture of Jerusalem in 1917.

Now a part of the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan, Bethlehem goes its tranquil way amid the chaos of the regions around it, unique among all places on this earth, symbol of hope and renewal of faith for an anxious world.

Bethlehem

Bulletin of the Near East Society

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