

A great deal of other excavation has been carried on in Palestine during the past twenty years, though work has been hampered by the splitting of Palestine in 1948 into two parts, with a no-man's land between them. The riots, upheavals, and fighting accompanying the partition naturally disrupted archeological work to a great extent. As a result of the partition the most fruitful and fertile sections of Palestine now belong to the State of Israel. However, a great part of this area was possessed by the Philistines in Biblical times. Perhaps eighty per cent of the places where important events in ancient Israelite history took place are in the state of Jordan, held by the Arabs. Thus the overwhelming bulk of the important archeological sites are not now accessible to the Jews.

In Jordan a considerable amount of excavation has been carried on. The work of J. P. Free at Dothan during a number of years, of J. B. Pritchard at Gibeon, of G. E. Wright at Shechem, and other excavations have added much detail to our knowledge of the culture of ancient Palestine. As mentioned above, work at Jericho was continued during this period. Work at Beth-zur was resumed in 1957.

In Israel interest in archeology has been great. A Department of Antiquities is very active. Whenever any public or private construction unearths something of archeological interest anywhere in the land, work has to stop immediately, until experts can come and determine whether it is necessary to make thorough investigation before other activities are allowed to proceed. The most important ancient place in the land of Israel is probably Hazor, the town from which Sisera came to fight against Barak. Under the able direction of Yigael Yadin, Israelite archeologists have carried on a number of seasons of excavation at Hazor, beginning in 1955, and have found much that throws interesting light on details of ancient Canaanite life.

One can never know when an expedition in either Israel or Jordan may find