June 7th, 1905.

Professor Charles C. Torrey,

67 Mansfield Street, New Haven, Conn.

My dear Professor Torrey:

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University it was voted to appropriate $100. to make the University of Chicago one of the supporters of the American School in Palestine. I am sorry that we have not been with you from the beginning and I really do not understand why this should have been.

Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper
June 12th, 1905.

My dear President Harper:

May we not see The University of Chicago enrolled among the "Supporters" of the American School in Palestine? Our former supporters are all standing by us, but we are in great need of more. The undertaking is a truly national one, and a worthy one, and is proving its value. We are especially desirous of having your University enrolled, since you have men whom we should be glad to send out as directors. I shall be glad to send further information, if you wish for it.

Very truly yours,

Charles C. Torrey

(for The Executive Committee)
BULLETIN
OF THE
American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem

Number 1 December, 1919

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE
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JOHN P. PETERS, Lecturer

ALBERT T. CLAY, Annual Professor
WILLIAM F. ALBRIGHT, Fellow
The American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem was opened in 1900. During the five years previous to that a movement had been in progress for the establishment of such a school. The idea was first broached by the late Professor Joseph Henry Thayer of Harvard in 1895 in his Presidential address before the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis. That Society appointed a committee to push the project and during the next five years subscriptions from a few individuals, varying in amount from $100 to $500 were secured. Twenty-six colleges, universities and theological seminaries also agreed each to contribute $100 a year for five years. In 1898 the Archaeological Institute of America agreed to take the proposed school under itsegis, and later contributed funds for a Fellowship in the School to be awarded annually. With this slender financial backing the School was opened in the autumn of 1900. Its beginnings were humble. For five years it occupied a room in the Grand New Hotel. Since January, 1906, it has occupied “its own hired house” in the new quarter outside the walls of Jerusalem.

Up to the outbreak of the war the School had a new Director each year. He was selected from the Faculty of one of the contributing institutions, his Board giving him leave of absence on full or half pay in order to enable him to go. It was thus possible to establish a school on the slender financial foundation mentioned.

Notwithstanding its poverty and the disadvantages of a constantly changing leadership, the School during the first fourteen years of its life gave training and life-long inspiration to a number of the younger Biblical professors in the colleges, universities and seminaries of America, and also to some of the scholarly pastors as well.

When, in 1914, Turkey entered the war, it became necessary to close the School. In 1917, when the United States declared war, the rented school building was tendered to the Red Cross, which occupied it through the remainder of the struggle.

The Management of the School has taken advantage of the end of the War to push bravely ahead to open the School promptly, and to lay foundations for a larger future. The Director, Dr. Worrell, after a tedious journey through Europe and via Venice and Cairo, reached Jerusalem October 7th. So the School is now formally opened. Professor Clay is following closely after him, as is also the Fellow, Dr. Albright, who sailed from America November 7th. The Rev. Dr. John P. Peters, the distinguished excavator of Nippur and Biblical scholar, sailed for the Orient early in November and will make his headquarters at Jerusalem, where he has been asked to serve as a Lecturer in the School. We are fortunate in being able to procure these four eminent scholars to serve us in this opening year of what should be a new era in the history of the School.

An important work was accomplished by Professors Worrell and Clay during the stay in England. Arriving there in July, they carried on negotiations with the British School of Archaeology in Palestine, which has recently been organized, with a view to a close co-operation in their common works. A most harmonious result has been attained. Articles of agreement have been drawn up by the representatives of the two Schools, and these were promptly ratified by our Executive Committee at a meeting held in New York October 11th.

These articles of agreement provide for a very close scheme of co-operation between the two Schools. It is planned to have common lecture halls, museum and library, and to avoid any unnecessary duplication of effort. At the same time the identity of each School will be maintained, there being holding together as affiliated institutions. For the purpose of greater efficiency each School will be given charge of distinct branches of the work, and so the American School will be responsible for the library, for which it already has its own excellent collection of books as a nucleus. The British School will be in charge of the Bureau of Records, which is to be a catalogue survey of all the archaeological material in Palestine.

The British staff consists of a distinguished group of scholars: Prof. John Garstang, the well-known explorer and excavator, as Director; Mr. Rhyman-Adams, the classical scholar, as his assistant; Mr. C. Leonard Woolley, whose explorations in the land south of Judea have been published in Annual No. 3 of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and Mr. MacKay, the British Inspector of Antiquities.

Conferences were also held in London, and, later, by Professor Clay, in Paris, with certain French scholars, among them M. Senart, president of the Société Asiatique, M. Sylvain Lévi, M. Clermont-Ganneau, with the object of including the French in this co-operative scheme. These gentlemen were greatly interested and it is very probable that they will come into it. We accordingly feel that the time and labor spent on these conferences by our representatives have been fully rewarded by the prospect of the harmonious co-operation of the three nations in the archaeological study of Syria.

We are glad to announce that the first number of the Annual—a publication which has been long talked of—will appear, it is hoped, before the end of the year. This volume is under the editorship of Prof. C. C. Torrey, and will contain a number of interesting articles by scholars connected with the School in the past. One of these papers is a fully illustrated study of the masonry of the walls of Jerusalem, by Prof. H. G. Mitchell, of Tufts College.

Prof. M. Jastrow, Jr., of the Executive Committee, has busied himself in soliciting books from institutions publishing learned series and from individual authors for the library of the School. A large box of these was forwarded to Jerusalem in November. Gifts of books are earnestly solicited, and also the cause of the Library is urged upon lovers, as it is in great need of enlargement and enrichment.

Since its humble beginnings the School has received some encouraging gifts, so that it has a prospect, as soon as conditions in Palestine will permit, of being able to have a building of its own. It is, however, sadly in need of a much larger annual income, to pay the salary of its permanent Director, to enlarge its staff, and to go on in excavations. The plan of co-operation with the British School imposes upon us the work of equipping and maintaining the library. We ought to be able at once to add a
trained librarian to our staff and to have increased sums for the purchase
of books. Indeed, if America is to maintain an honorable place in the
international plan for archaeological work in Palestine outlined above,
an increased income must be obtained at once. All members of the
Archaeological Institute, and all lovers of the Bible are earnestly urged to
come to our aid. Will not other Societies of the Institute follow the example
of the Detroit Society and subscribe a definite sum each year for five years
to the funds of the School in Jerusalem? Every one who contributes
$100 a year becomes ipso facto a voting member of the Managing Com-
mittee of the School.

The death of Mrs. James B. Nies, of Brooklyn, has removed a very
firm friend of the School. Her promised gift of $50,000 for the erection
of a building for the School will be carried out by her husband and executor,
the Rev. Dr. Nies. As soon as the title to our land can be made secure
under the new government of Palestine, the construction of the building
will be proceeded with.

The Annual Meeting of the Managing Committee of the School will
be held in New York in conjunction with the meeting of the Society of
Biblical Literature and Exegesis at Union Theological Seminary on De-
cember 29.

LIST OF SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS

Amherst College          Meadville Theological School
Auburn Theological Seminary  Mount Holyoke College
Bangor Theological Seminary  Newton Theological Institution
Bryn Mawr College           Oberlin College
Catholic University of America  Princeton University
Columbia University          Protestant Episcopal Divinity School,
Cornell University           Philadelphia
Crozier Theological Seminary  Rochester Theological Seminary
Dropsie College             Smith College
Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Mass.
General Theological Seminary  Syracuse University
Gettysburg Theological Seminary  Trinity College, Hartford
Goucher College             Union Theological Seminary
Hartford Theological Seminary  University of California
Harvard University          University of Chicago
Haverford College           University of Michigan
Hebrew Union College         University of Pennsylvania
Hibbard Egyptian Library, Western Theo-
  logical Seminary, Chicago
Jewish Theological Seminary  University of Toronto
Johns Hopkins University     Vassar College
McCormick Theological Seminary  Wellesley College
                                 Western Theological Seminary, Pitts-
                                 burgh
                                 Xenia Theological Seminary
                                 Yale University