

INTRODUCTION

I HAVE really spent too long in Jordan to be able to write a good book about it; intimate acquaintance with a place for a long period of time inevitably eradicates the impressions of its first impact unless one keeps a diary, and that I have never done. Likewise with time one begins to forget what the place as a whole looks like as one concentrates on the details which make up the picture. As I first went to Jordan in 1932 and took up residence there in 1936, time has had ample opportunity to get busy on my vision of the country, and the large view has been submerged in the fascination of minutiae. On my first visit I went more or less as a tourist, taking a busman's holiday with other members of the expedition at the end of a season's excavation with Sir Flinders Petrie at Tall al Ajjul in South Palestine. Some sites visited then for the first time—such as ancient Jericho—seemed very dull, but have since become of absorbing interest, while others, such as Jarash, were overwhelming in their first impressions but had not much to offer for subsequent investigation. It naturally never occurred to me then, as I looked for the first time at the ruins of Jarash and Petra, that I should one day be responsible for the preservation not only of such outstanding sites but also of all the thousands of other ancient remains in East Jordan.

But when I returned in 1936 it was as Chief Curator of Antiquities, a title subsequently changed to Director, and fortunately for my peace of mind I could not foresee just how much I had in fact taken on. For in 1948 a large area of Palestine also came within my area, and this ultimately included the great problem of the Dead Sea Scrolls, which has occupied much of my time and energy during the past few years. Before 1948, however, existence was more leisurely, and I have been able to visit most corners of Trans-Jordan, as it then was, chiefly by car in my faithful Ford V8, bought new in 1936 and still going strong when I left in

1956. My equally faithful and indeed indispensable companion on all these trips was Hasan Awad, whom I had first known as a small boy aged about thirteen or fourteen in 1926, and who had grown up in archaeology. He has a remarkable flair for it and a very sharp eye for ancient remains; many a prehistoric site was first discovered by him. He is also one of the finest excavators I know, with a delicacy of touch and a patience that must be seen to be believed, and great ingenuity in overcoming difficulties of all kinds.

This book was actually started some years ago and was intended solely as a guide to the principal ancient sites likely to be seen by the average visitor, together with a little information about the country and its history. For apart from Baedeker and the *Guide Bleu* there was no volume which covered the whole country in a general way, and that there was a demand for such a work was clear from the great number of tourists who asked me what they could read when visiting the country. But it has now been largely rewritten and recast in the hopes of its being of some interest to the arm-chair traveller as well as of practical use to the visitor on the spot. Attention has been confined chiefly to East Jordan, as there are many good books already in existence about the West, or Palestine, side, but in view of the importance of recent work and discoveries in the Jericho neighbourhood I have included a chapter on that. Dr. Kathleen Kenyon's work at ancient Jericho and Père de Vaux's work at Qumran and on the Dead Sea Scrolls are both world-famous now, and although on the latter subject many hundreds of books and articles have already appeared, I felt it should not be omitted from a work of this nature.

There are, of course, hundreds of ancient sites which do not even get a mention here, but they are the sort of places which are of interest only to the archaeologist, for they are generally rather difficult to get at and in most cases nothing but a few potsherds are visible on the surface. With the increased tempo of travel in these days, visitors tend to spend less and less time in one country and only want to know what they can see in the shortest possible space of time. So I have concentrated on the most impressive,

interesting and easily accessible sites, and indeed there are more than enough of these; few countries can boast of two such unique sites within their boundaries as Petra and Jarash.

Every writer of a book of this kind owes an immense debt to the travellers and scholars who have gone before him, and I am no exception. I am further indebted to many who read the manuscript both in its original and recast form and made most helpful criticisms and suggestions. My most sincere thanks go to Miss Gwendoline Brocklehurst, who typed the whole thing in her spare time and had the kindness to say at the end that she had not been bored by it. And I cannot omit mention of the encouragement of the publishers.

Limassol.

1958

INTRODUCTION TO THE REVISED EDITION

IN the eight years since *The Antiquities of Jordan* was published, changes have come thick and fast to Jordan, and in no field is this more evident than in archaeology. American Aid programmes have contributed large sums of money for conservation and restoration work, and aspects of sites have changed almost, it seems to me, overnight. Roads everywhere have improved out of recognition—except when lumps occasionally slide down into a wadi or are washed away in flash floods, both phenomena in the old tradition. But it is now possible, for example, to reach Wadi Musa from Jerusalem in five hours, and by car, not aeroplane. Everything has been done to attract the visitor or tourist to Jordan, and they have responded in vast numbers. While I cannot myself wax enthusiastic over such amenities as Coca Cola stalls at Petra, there is no doubt that by and large the innovations are improvements and make moving about the country very much easier and more comfortable.

I have tried here to include up-to-date results from recent excavations, and to indicate roads, as they are in this year of 1966. To this latter end I made a brief tour of the country, and wish to express my very best thanks to Miss K. Wright of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, who most kindly drove me the whole way in her Land-Rover. Her companionship was most stimulating and her driving impeccable; we only stuck in the sand once, and that was my fault for giving the wrong directions.

And I must thank the Director and all members of the Jordan Department of Antiquities for their never-failing kindness and help; this alone always makes it a pleasure for me to visit Jordan. Then there are the many friends who have given valuable criticisms, suggestions and corrections to the text, particularly Mr. Peter Parr of the Institute of Archaeology. To all these also I owe a great debt.

Daroun-Harissa

1966