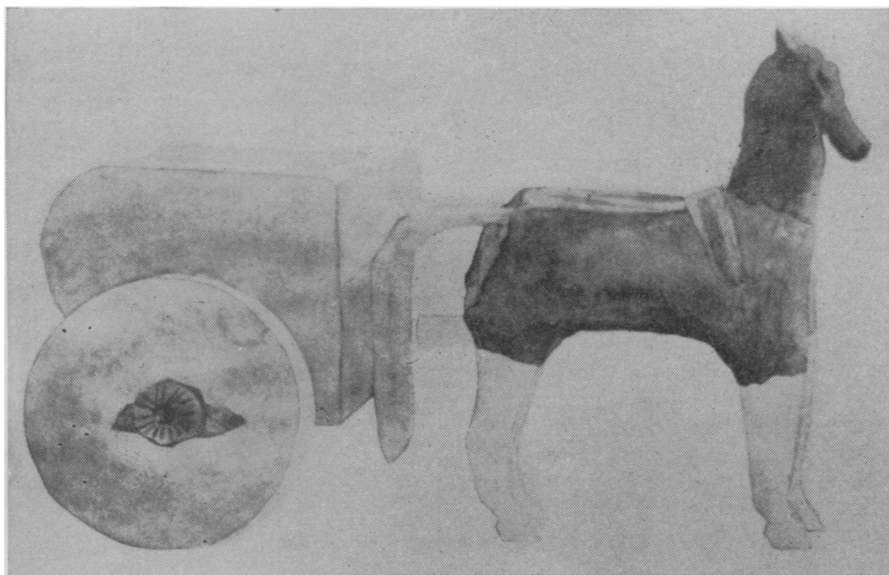


# Canaanite Tower Unearthed at Beth-Shan

Archæology



*IN MINIATURE SIZE, the iron war chariots of the Canaanites are not alarming, but the real chariots struck terror to the hearts of the Israelites*

How Egyptian and Canaanite soldiers fought and worshipped within the walls of Beth-shan in the valley of the Jordan, 3,300 years ago, is shown by a report on the newest finds made by the University of Pennsylvania Museum's expedition to Palestine by the director, Alan Rowe. This is the seventh season that the expedition has excavated at this famous Biblical city, now known as Beisan.

A great fort-tower, with thick walls of brick, is one of the important finds from the period before the coming of the Children of Israel, when Palestine was a conquered province of Egypt and was occupied by the Canaanites. This fort-tower must have served as a last refuge for troops in time of siege, Mr. Rowe concludes. Adjoining it are the foundations of a building which he believes may well

have been the residence of the Egyptian commandant of the fort in the time of Rameses II., the Pharaoh of the Oppression.

"Egyptian scribes and craftsmen must also have been quartered in the fort, Mr. Rowe reports, 'for we have now actually found the handiwork of one of these very scribes on a potsherd which was in the corridor west of the commandant's residence.'"

The inscription on the fragment is part of a religious text translated as: "The fiend in the house of the ruddy beings." The fiend is the god Set and the ruddy beings are his associates, which included the hippopotamus, pig, crocodile and serpent. The inscription is of particular importance, since it is the first evidence at Beisan of the hieratic writing used by the Egyptians instead of hieroglyphics for ordinary business documents.

Among the objects discovered in the fort-tower were a small figurine of a king wearing a false beard, a small jar in the form of a squatting man, and fragments of a pottery model of a two-horsed war chariot, representing the horses, the poles and the yokes.

"Discovery of the chariot model recalls the Biblical passage in the sixteenth verse of the seventeenth chapter of Joshua," Mr. Rowe states, "in which it is written, 'And the Children of Joseph said, The hill is not enough for us; and all the Canaan-

ites that dwell in the land of the valley have chariots of iron, both they who are of Beth-shean and her towns, and they who are of the valley of Jezreel.'"

In the courtyard of the residence was discovered an enormous cylinder-shaped silo built of bricks, which has a present content of 9,270 modern gallons.

A temple dating back to Thotmes III, who reigned about 500 B. C., has been excavated, revealing the plans of the structure, and also a great circular fireplace which must have been used for roasting the sacrificial animals, and a Canaanite well, associated with the temple and pronounced the oldest well of its kind discovered in Palestine.

*Science News-Letter, December 15, 1928*

When yellow jackets sting they sometimes leave the stinger in the puncture and sometimes do not.

The Hottentots of Africa got their name because their queer, clicking language suggested this sort of sound.

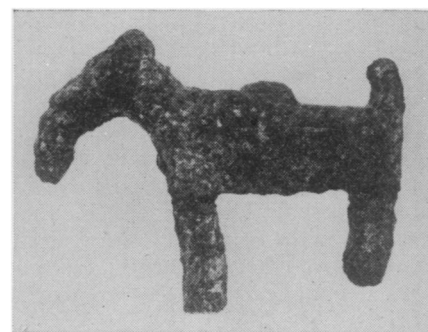
Umbrella ants are so called because they carry to their nests scraps of leaves over their heads, umbrella-fashion.

That a feudal system similar to that of medieval Europe existed in ancient Babylonia is shown by a clay tablet recently translated.

Ancient forest practices followed the belief that when the moon waned the sap in a tree flowed downward and trees should be cut at that time when the wood was drier.



*A GOOD LUCK CAT, more soberly described as a cat amulet of jasper, found in the ruins of the fort-tower*



*NOT AN AIREDALE with a bone, but a little bronze dog of Beth-shan, about 1300 B. C.*