

## ARCHAEOLOGY

# Town Planning Before Babylon Shown by Finds Near Baghdad

THE EARLIEST known example of town planning has been discovered at Kafaje, an archaeological site in Iraq about 50 miles from Baghdad—east of the river Tigris. Writing in the *London Times*, Dr. H. Frankfort, field director of an expedition working on behalf of the Oriental Institute of Chicago, reports that he has uncovered a temple, contemporary with the tombs discovered by C. L. Woolley at Ur and dated at about 3500 B. C. A part of the town in which the houses are arranged with the greatest regard to economy of space was also unearthed. The partition walls are shared by adjoining houses and blind alleys serve as the entrance to houses at their ends. The houses are square with one another, and one long street runs through the town from northwest to southeast with side streets running off it at right angles.

Much of the site was pillaged by robbers in 1928, but one valuable find which they missed is a sculptor's workshop. Here can still be seen the details of the sculptor's technique. Statues are here in various stages of being hewn out of square blocks, while unfinished parts show how the sculptor dealt with broken statues sent to him for repair.

At Tell Asmar, 15 miles away, where the expedition has also been at work, several discoveries of the first importance for archaeology and the history of religion have been made.

For the first time archaeologists have been able to examine the domestic arrangements of the time of King Sargon I, the great king who founded the dynasty of Babylon in 2750 B. C. and claimed to have extended his dominions as far as the Mediterranean. Dr. Frankfort's expedition has excavated a temple and houses of this period, the first available for examination.

In the large "palace" building, what was apparently the women's quarters, a unit of longer rooms with small rooms grouped around, was found. This was not accessible from outside. It was strewn with pots, handmills and domestic utensils. In a small suite of two rooms, probably the apartments of the mistress, were beads, an ivory comb, rouge and black kohl for the eyes, both

kept in mussel shells, and finally what Dr. Frankfort regards as the raw material for the equivalent of the modern European lady's embroidery, lumps of bitumen and pieces of mother of pearl for inlay work.

Equally important for the student of early religions were the carved reliefs which were found in a temple of an earlier date than the Sargonic buildings, the "House of Abu," the Lord of Vegetation. In several of these reliefs the god is shown with part of his body in the form of a snake. In another a human or divine figure attacks a seven-headed monster with a spear. Four of the heads hang down while the remaining three menace the figure. This, Dr. Frankfort says, is undoubtedly the Asiatic prototype of the combat between Hercules and the Hydra.

Most important of all, however, is what Dr. Frankfort regards as a representation of the central mystery of the Asiatic fertility cults—the marriage of the god and the goddess. A male and female deity are shown side by side on a bed with the priest at the foot. This incident is hinted at in Babylonian texts; but this is the first representation of it ever to be found.

*Science News Letter, September 9, 1933*

## ZOOLOGY

## Petrified Forest May Show Antelope Herds of America

PETRIFIED Forest National Monument, in eastern Arizona, one day may be the great show place for antelope in this country, if plans now being considered by the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations of the Department of the Interior are carried out.

The Petrified Forest is a natural range for these plains animals. At present about 38 antelope range immediately south of the monument and along the approach road, while another band of 30 ranges immediately southeast of the monument and still a third, numbering about 200, ranges to the west. With this nucleus in the vicinity of the monument, there is sufficient stock available

for further development.

George M. Wright and Ben H. Thompson of the Division of Wild Life Studies of the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations, after inspecting the Petrified Forest last summer, recommended that the development of the monument as a real antelope preserve be inaugurated this summer. The plan under discussion involves fencing the outer boundaries of that portion of the monument under consideration for restocking, to keep out stray cattle and give the natural forage an opportunity to return.

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## VETERINARY MEDICINE

## Mosquitoes Carry Sleeping Sickness To Horses

SUSPICION that insects, possibly mosquitoes, may be carriers of the sleeping sickness outbreak in the St. Louis area receives a certain degree of indirect support in the recently established proof that a disease of the same general type in horses is transmitted by the yellow-fever mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*.

Encephalomyelitis of horses, which produces in horses and mules symptoms more or less resembling those of sleeping sickness in man, was traced to a filterable virus as a causative agent within the past four years, by Prof. K. F. Meyer of the Hooper Foundation and associates of the University of California. Early in the spring of this year, Maj. R. A. Kelser of the U. S. Army Medical School succeeded in infecting a horse through the bite of a yellow-fever mosquito known to be a carrier of the virus. He demonstrated also that the insect was not a mere mechanical

## THE POETRY OF THE ROCKS

an address by

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To be given Friday, Sept. 15 at 1:45 p. m. Eastern Standard Time over stations of the Columbia Broadcasting System. Each week a prominent scientist speaks over the Columbia System under the auspices of Science Service.

