



AFTER 5,600 YEARS

A model showing how City Ten—counting from top—looked at Tepe Gawra when archaeologists dug down to it below nine other flattened and wrecked cities. Walls of this layer were found standing more than three feet high. The temple is shown as it would look restored. The model, scaled to 100th actual size, is by Charles Bache and E. B. Miller, the architect of the Tepe Gawra expedition.

ARCHAEOLOGY

American Scientist Sails to Dig at "World's Oldest City"

DESPITE war clouds hanging low over the Mediterranean and Ethiopia, Charles Bache, of the University Museum, Philadelphia, has sailed for Iraq to resume his peaceful and scholarly task of digging to the depths of "the oldest city in the world."

Like the Italians who waited for the end of Ethiopia's rainy season, Mr. Bache has been eagerly waiting for the wet season to end in the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates. With the receding of the summer flood waters, he expects to start exploring remains of a civilization as old as 4000 B.C.

Tepe Gawra, as the site is called, is a mound containing 20 to 22 layers, each of which represents, packed down, all that is left of a stage of ancient civilization. Dr. E. A. Speiser of the University Museum staff first investigated the mound in 1927, and dug the trial trench which revealed the succession of 20 or more cities on the ground.

Working with the American School of Oriental Research, the Museum has "peeled off" twelve layers, the twelfth one going back to about 4000 B. C., when the people had no knowledge of using metal. People whose city lay just over this one imported metals, the digging shows, but did not know how to work them. Copper to them was hard stone-like stuff, and used as such. Mr. Bache called them Chalcolithic or copper-stone people.

The twelfth city from the top, where the digging will be resumed, reveals a people still in the stone age, dubbed the Painted Pottery People, for want of a better name.

Important as have been the discoveries at Tepe Gawra thus far, they are pronounced merely preliminary to the work Mr. Bache now sails to take up. Eight years of digging brings the expedition to a period of early civilization very little known.

One of the late discoveries before Mr. Bache was forced to stop work last season was a slender vase found by an impetuous workman who sank his pick below City Twelve, and dug right through to the earlier unexplored City Thirteen. The vase had contained kohl, used by women to darken their eyelids, in the make-up fashions of more than 6,000 years ago.

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CHRONOLOGY

The Ethiopian Calendar Has Thirteen Months

OF ALL the countries in the world, Ethiopia is only one which uses a calendar of thirteen months. The Ethiopian year commences on September 11 except in years preceding leap year, when it begins on September 12, as was the case in 1935. The year is divided not as ours, but into twelve months of thirty days each and one of five days, or in leap years six days. Consequently the subjects of the King of Kings are always out of step, as far as the calendar is concerned, with the rest of the world.

This type of calendar, however, is of extremely ancient origin. Long before any other nation had devised an accurate calendar, the Egyptians had contrived one which took account of the true length of the year, basing it upon the sun instead of the moon, as all other peoples had done. Twelve months, each of thirty days, were set up, and the additional five days were distributed as extra holidays in convenient places throughout the year. As a result of this accurate and dependable calendar by which the priests could definitely foretell the seasons, Egypt grew to be the richest nation in the ancient world. The survival of this type of calendar in Ethiopia was brought about by the adoption of the Egyptian or Coptic variety of Christianity more than 1,500 years ago.

The Ethiopian calendar, though it consists of thirteen months, should not be confused with the Thirteen Equal Months Calendar. This latter proposal suggests that the year be re-arranged so that there will be thirteen months, all equal in length to contain exactly four complete weeks, with every year starting on Sunday, January 1. That it is practical is shown by the fact that it is already being used to advantage by more than one thousand business firms.

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Tobacco pipes six feet long are smoked in ceremonials by certain African tribes.