



IVORY COMB

With its delicate carvings, this ornament was a part of the treasure buried in ancient Palestine.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Ancient Palestine Treasure Comes to Oriental Institute

At Armageddon Is Found the Cache of a Prince Who Buried His Wealth in 1350 B.C. Never To Recover It

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AN archaeological treasure in gold and ivory has arrived safely in Chicago, it was announced by Dr. John A. Wilson, director of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. The treasure, from Megiddo (Armageddon) in western Palestine, was discovered during last season's digging and a brief announcement made last March, by cable.

The discoveries will have an important place in disclosing new knowledge of historic Palestine during the troubled years from 1500 to 1200 B. C., when the land was a loosely joined group of "city" states under the nominal leadership of Egypt.

Gordon Loud, field director of the Institute's expedition, who has just returned from Palestine, related the details of the discovery.

"A magnificent palace," he said, "with frescoed walls and floors of sea shell mosaic stood just within the city gate

and dominated the ramp approach to this fortress city. Within this palace lived princes of Megiddo who ruled this small section of the Egyptian Empire from about 1500 to 1200 B. C.

"These were troublous times, and the course of empire was not smooth. The city was constantly threatened with invasion by those who wished to throw off the yoke of Egyptian suzerainty. This threat sometimes became a reality, as is evidenced not only by historical records but by the excavation of five periods during which the palace emerged from partial destruction, each time with a slightly different plan.

"While we were engaged in clearing the floor which served the second phase of the palace we noticed that the lime pavement in the corner of a comparatively inaccessible room had been replaced with tamped earth. Exploring spades exposed a gleam of gold, and then patient and painstaking work with knife

and brush uncovered the entire cache of gold and jewelry under the floor.

"About 1350 B. C. a threatened invasion had caused the prince to bury his valued treasure, hoping it might escape the general looting which inevitably accompanied invasion. His hopes of safety for the gold were fulfilled, but he apparently never lived to reclaim his possessions."

The 250 pieces of carved ivory will probably prove of more scholarly interest to scientists than the beautiful gold ornaments. Some bear hieroglyphic markings which should permit them to be dated by specialists. The first task on these ivory carvings will be to treat them to insure preservation. This will be done before they are made available for study and exhibition.

The discoveries climax 13 years of exploration at the Armageddon site, famous battle site of ancient nations. Previous discoveries include the stables of the blooded horses bred by Solomon for distribution in the east, and an ancient water system.

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METALLURGY

U. S. Not Self-Contained In Tin, Nickel and Platinum

FROM the rocks of the earth come many substances that are essential to our daily life. These differ from the crops of the fields and the timber of the forest in not being renewable. The sun's energy can not produce them and seeds can not be taken from one nation to another and planted to produce tin or oil or manganese.

Those minerals that a nation needs but does not have come to be known as "strategic minerals" during the World War. Rising nationalisms in recent years have accentuated their importance.

For the United States, which is far better off in mineral supplies than most nations, Dr. T. T. Read of Columbia University lists the following: Manganese, essential for making open-hearth steel. Tin, for food containers and bearings. Mercury for detonators. Tungsten for high-speed tool steels and electric lamp filaments. Chrome ore for tanning, chemical manufacture, refractories, and metallurgy. Graphite for crucibles. Mica for insulators. Platinum for chemical industry. Asbestos for heat-resisting uses. Nickel for alloy steels and plating.

Tin, nickel and platinum are three materials that apparently can not be produced in this country. A few years ago