

lieved that elaborate Indian ceremonies must have taken place at the carefully planned setting.

The modern town of Newark has obscured part of the pattern, but two large portions escaped, and these form the new state park. One portion lies in a fair ground. The other escaped being leveled when historically-minded golfers took it for a golf course, using the Indian ridges, ditches, and mounds just as they are to make a picturesque course.

Telling of long efforts to save Newark's important Indian ruins from being entirely leveled and lost, Dr. H. C. Shetrone, director of the Ohio State Museum, Columbus, said that steps are now being taken toward having the earthworks established as a national monument by the federal government.

"The Newark earthworks," said Dr. Shetrone, "are the largest and best preserved of their class in existence.

Science News Letter, August 5, 1933

ARCHAEOLOGY

Excavations Shed Light On Story of Jewish Exile

THE ANCIENT exile of the Jews, when King Nebuchadnezzar carried them off captive from their Promised Land in Palestine, is seen in a new light as the result of discoveries at a site thought to be the city of Lachish in southern Palestine.

It now appears that the captive Jews, whose unhappy fate in Babylonia is told in Bible narrative, were not the great mass of Jewish people. The number carried off by the conquering Babylonian king was small, if the clues found at Lachish are significant, as archaeologists believe them to be.

The new clue to Jewish history is 700 pieces of pottery, found in a number of tombs. The important discovery was made by chance, when a workman was digging up clay to use as plaster.

The hundreds of pieces of pottery form an unbroken series, showing the kind of clay wares made in Palestine from the ninth century B. C. down through the exile period three hundred years later. The Jewish history told in clay dishes proceeds in orderly fashion with no dramatic breaks in style or technique, such as would be expected if the national life was rudely disrupted by foreign conquerors and deportation of all or most of the people. Hence it is believed that comparatively few captives were taken.

Science News Letter, August 5, 1933

PALEONTOLOGY

Africa, Not Asia, Seen As Birthplace of Humanity

Evidence Unearthed in Tanganyika Territory Leads to Conclusion of British Authority, Geological Congress Hears

AFRICA was the original center of humanity, the scientific "Garden of Eden," Sir Arthur Smith Woodward, the British authority on ancient man, has concluded.

For some time it has seemed probable that the birthplace of true men, the kind of human beings living today, must have been south-central Asia, but Sir Arthur in a comprehensive paper delivered to the International Geological Congress meeting in Washington has summoned facts that convince him that Africa is the birthplace of humanity.

Most important is the recent skeletal evidence unearthed in Tanganyika Territory, Africa, by Dr. L. S. B. Leakey, that a kind of man lived there very early in Pleistocene or Ice Age that resembled very closely ourselves. This is taken as an indication that the modern type of man appeared much earlier in Africa than in Europe or Asia, although in tool making and presumably in general skill he has not advanced farther than cousin kinds of man, not in the direct line of descent of modern man, which existed at the same time in remote parts of Europe and Asia.

There are four types of mankind, which disappeared before the rise of true men to domination of the earth. One of these is the Piltdown dawn man, Eoanthropus, discovered in England. Another is the famous ape-man of Java, Pithecanthropus. Contemporary with these also is the Heidelberg man, known

only by one lower jaw found in Germany, who Sir Arthur doubts really deserves the name Homo. Most recently discovered but of equally great antiquity is Sinanthropus, China's fossil man. All of these are regarded as offshoots from the human stem, sort of unsuccessful experiments of nature as compared with modern man and his ancestors.

Extinct also is the Mousterian or Neanderthal man who was widespread in Europe at a time that is geologically less remote than the opening chapters of Pleistocene time during which the other extinct types lived. The Neanderthals were a second and later offshoot from the human family tree.

So a clearer picture of the human past has been drawn. A million years ago, more or less, at the beginning of the Pleistocene there were five kinds of men existing in different parts of the world. All arose from a common animal ancestor. One was destined to evolve into ourselves. Sir Arthur suggests an intensive search of the earlier layers of the earth in Africa, the Miocene and Pliocene deposits, for earlier evidence of man's rise in the evolutionary scale.

Not all anthropologists and paleontologists studying ancient man agree with Sir Arthur. Many hold fast to the idea that further research in Asia will unearth the ancestors of true man and that the true man found by Dr. Leakey migrated to Africa from Asia.

Science News Letter, August 5, 1933



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