



Remains of the Zealots who died defending Masada, found in a cave near the top of the south cliff. Photos courtesy of the Jewish Museum.

Masada Recreated

Beginning this month and continuing for almost two years, Americans will be able to see first-hand how archaeologists have recreated history and biblical antiquity in an exhibition entitled "Masada: A Struggle for Freedom." The exhibition opens in New York at the Jewish Museum (Fifth Avenue and 92nd Street), where it will be on view from October 12, 1967 to February 18, 1968 before traveling to other major cities across the country. Flown to New York from Israel, the exhibition presents the results of the 1963-1965 expedition to Masada led by Professor Yigael Yadin under the auspices of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Department of Antiquities and Museums of the Government of Israel and the Israel Exploration Society. The excavation was financed by a group of British citizens and organizations: Harry and Miriam Tacher, Terence and the late Kathilda Kennedy and the Wolfson Foundation in cooperation with the *London Observer*.

In eleven months of digging, the team of excavators and scholars sought and found confirmation of the ancient historical account (told by Josephus) of a Jewish Zealot community's last stand, in 72-73 A.D., against the Roman Tenth Legion. The history of the site and the

defense of the Zealots against the Roman assault is described by Yigael Yadin in his book *Masada*, reviewed in this issue.

The exhibit of material from Masada is divided into eight sections, enhanced by color photographs, models and ingenious special effects. The human aspect is emphasized, from the work-a-day objects of the Zealots to the daily life of the large international volunteer work force which dug the site. One section is devoted to the methods and tools of the archaeologists, another to the methods of Roman siege warfare. Models and color views call attention to the grand Herodian palaces, baths,

Annual Meeting of the ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

The sixty-ninth General Meeting of the ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA will be held in Boston, Massachusetts December 28-30, 1967, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association. The hotel will be the Statler-Hilton.

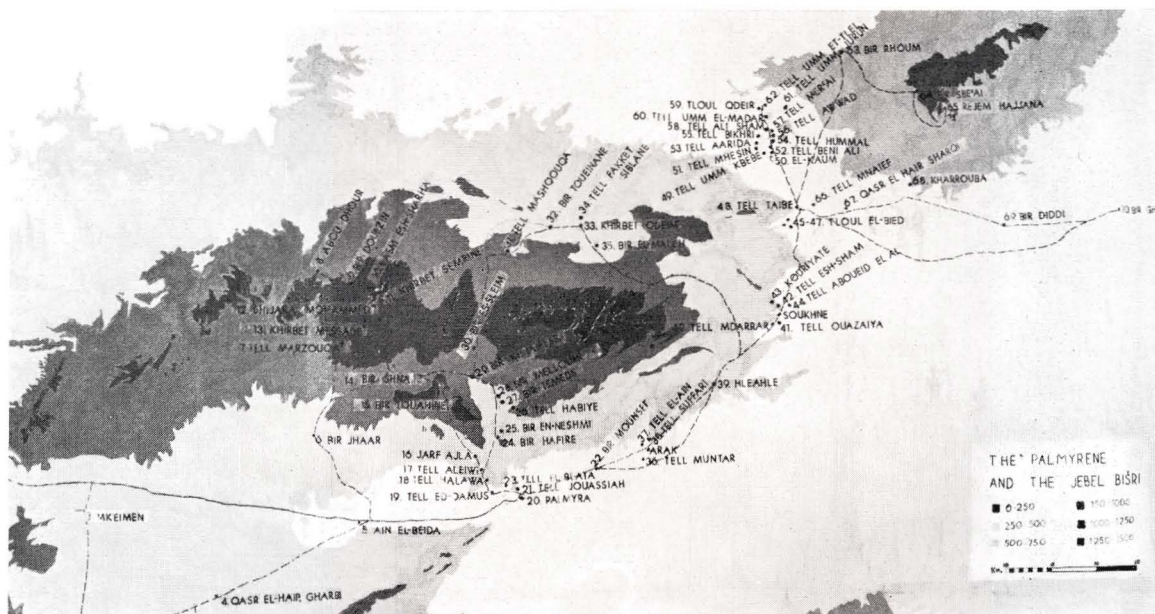
All those interested are welcome to attend the sessions at which papers will be read.

water system and mosaics. For some, the most significant part of the exhibition displays the scroll fragments found at Masada, including the two final chapters of the Book of Deuteronomy, parts of chapter 37 of Ezekiel, an Essene text and the Book of Ben Sira. A special section is arranged to show documents and objects from caves on the Dead Sea, which belonged to supporters of Simon Bar Kokhba's later Jewish uprising against the Romans in 132-135 A.D. The Bar Kokhba documents, which can be dated precisely by their historical context, are an important addition to the scrolls found at Qumran thirteen years earlier.

Archaeological Survey of the Palmyrene and the Jebel Bishri

A survey of the Palmyrene and the Jebel Bishri, in the northern part of the Syrian desert, was carried out in August 1966 under the sponsorship of the University of California at Los Angeles. Its purpose was to find out if archaeological attestation for the Bronze Age existed in this region. While numerous sites of this period are known from the river basins which arch the desert and form the "Fertile Crescent," the desert and sub-desert area within that arch had remained archaeologically barren and had never really been surveyed for Bronze Age evidence. Yet there is, precisely for this period, ample documentation attesting to an influx of peoples from the sub-desert or steppe area toward the drainage systems of the Orontes on the one hand and the Euphrates and the Tigris on the other. Besides this inference based on evidence from outside the area proper, the existence of human settlements for the Bronze Age within the area itself was supported by soundings undertaken by R. du Mesnil du Buisson at Palmyra. At 11.10 m. below an Hellenistic temple he found an occupational level with fragments of pottery which he dates ca. 2200-2100 B.C. (see *Archaeologia*, May/June 1967, pages 50-51).

The area covered by the survey is shown on the map; a total of 70 sites was visited. The survey was strictly a surface exploration since limits in time and budget precluded carrying out any soundings. The sites chosen were located in various



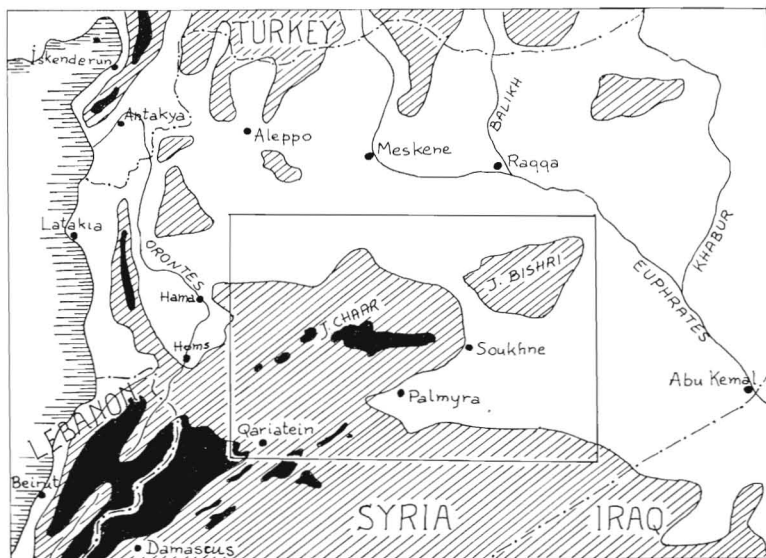
Map of the sites surveyed in August 1966 in the Palmyrene and the Jebel Bishri.

ecological areas: the top of mountain ranges, the piedmont areas both to the north (facing the Euphrates) and to the south (facing the desert), mountain passes, springs and oases. The results of the survey were significantly negative with respect to the period on which our interest was focused. No material found could clearly be correlated with the known pottery sequences of the second millennium

from Syria and Mesopotamia. Architecturally, only one find deserves special mention. At Tell Beni Ali (52 on the map) a wall made of roughly hewn stones can be seen in the center of the *tell* about five meters below the surface, exposed by a large cut made to draw water from a well. No pottery can be linked with the wall and thus its interest derives only from its relative stratigraphic depth. Possibly

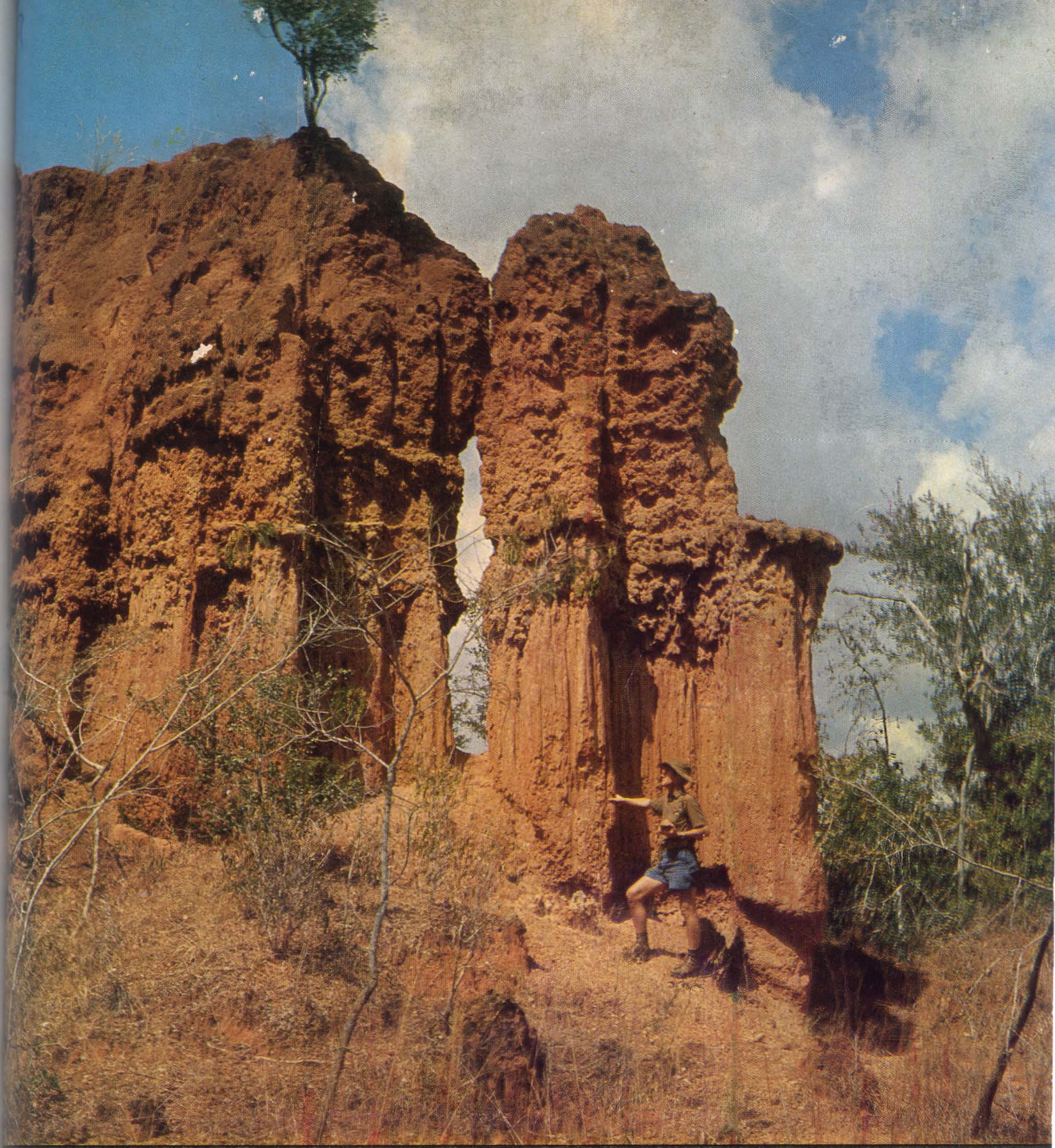
a similar situation occurs at Tell Umm Kbebe (49), where a wall is also in evidence at the north-eastern end of the mound where a cut had been made to afford room for an animal enclosure.

More clearly attested are the periods before and after the Bronze Age. The most important finds are the prehistoric ones because they considerably augment our knowledge of the Palaeolithic period in this area and add a new region—the pass of Taibe and el-Kaum—to the cultural geography of the period. Flints of the type already known from Jarf Ajla near Palmyra were found at the following sites: Tell el-Ain (37), Tell el-Kaum (50), Tell Mhesin (51), Tell Hummal (54), Tell Umm el-Madar (60), Tell Umm Tlel (62), Bir Sbeai (64). Very rich in number and well preserved were the finds at Tell Hummal and especially Tell Umm Tlel. In the latter site a large pile of flints had been heaped up by local farmers who had been digging a well (called Ain Jawwal) at the foot of the mound. The flints from Tell Hummal also came to the surface as a result of a deep cut opened through the center of the mound to draw water from a well.



Sketch map of the Middle East. The rectangular outlined area is enlarged and the sites detailed in the map at the top of this page.

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