

CURRENT TOPICS

Revival of Islam Through the Medium of Films

"The Higher Committee of Al Azher, the oldest centre of Islamic learning—has not only not objected to the realization of this method but have advised Muslims all over the world to encourage it.

"The adoption of this medium, it is pointed out, is likely to remove the age old prejudice among Muslims against photography.

"The first step in this direction was taken last year by Ibrahim Izzddin Bey, a prominent Egyptian, whose film *Zahoor Islam*, 'Dawn of Islam' won him deep admiration in religious quarters of the Muslim world.

"The film depicts the advent of Islam and the numerous hardships which it had to face in its early stages. The production of such a film presented formidable difficulties in view of Muslim sentiments against photographing early Muslim personalities. It was a controversial issue as to who could be photographed.

"However, the Mufti of Egypt, Hasnain Makhluḥ, finally solved the problem by declaring that the taboo against filming applied only to the Holy Prophet, members of his family, and the first four Caliphs.

"*'Zahoor-e-Islam'* gives a graphic description of pre-Islamic life and shows how Islam grew from strength to strength in face of numerous obstacles. Among the historic events shown in the film are the Battle of Badar and the migration of Muslims from Mecca to Medina. Some of the scenes were shot in Saudi Arabia and special care has been taken to show several historical places.

"Within a short period of its release the film gained wide popularity not only in Egypt but in other Muslim countries as well.

"The film which has also been translated in English and is being shown in educational institutions of America is likely to be dubbed in many other languages for the benefit of Muslims who do not understand Arabic or Turkish.

"The film was translated in Turkish language and shown in Turkish schools when the Turkish Government declared it to be an educational film thereby exempting it from all customs charges."

Quoted from *The Civil & Military Gazette* of Karachi, dated March 19, 1952.

The Zwemer Memorial Fund

Friends of the late Dr. Samuel M. Zwemer are establishing a fund in his memory. In accordance with the wishes of his children, contributions will be used for a Library and Reading Room in Bahrain. Gifts should be sent to:

THE ZWEMER MEMORIAL FUND,
c/o The Reformed Church in America,
156 Fifth Avenue, Room 902, New York 10, N. Y.

SURVEY OF PERIODICALS

BY SUE MOLLESON FOSTER

Union Theological Seminary Library

I. GENERAL

CLOVE-SCENTED ZANZIBAR. W. R. Moore. (In *The National Geographic Magazine*, Washington, D. C. February, 1952. pp. 261-278).

Finely illustrated description of this beautiful island where David Livingstone prepared for one of his famous African expeditions.

DANTE AND THE LEGEND OF THE MI'RĀJ. Theodore Silverstein. (In *the Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, Chicago. April, 1952. pp. 89-110).

The first installment of a study on the problem of Islamic influence on the Christian literature of the world beyond death.

DANTE ET L'ISLAM D'APRÈS DES TRAVAUX RÉCENTS. M. Rodinson. (In *Revue de l'Histoire des Religions*, Paris. Octobre-Décembre, 1951. pp. 203-235).

Traces the probable Muslim influences on the "Divine Comedy" and discusses in particular the researches of Miguel Asin Palacios.

THE DEFENCE OF THE HOLY PLACES. Evelyn Waugh. (In *The Month*, London. March, 1952. pp. 135-148).

A plea for the actual internationalizing of Jerusalem, thus ending the shame and confusion caused by our rulers' indecision.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE ARABIC LANGUAGE ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE ARABS. E. Shouby. (In *The Middle East Journal*, Washington, D. C. Summer, 1951. pp. 284-302).

The author believes that literary Arabic, representing the ideal self, and colloquial Arabic, representing the real, or lower, self, may account for the puzzling contradictions in the Arab personality.

THE LEIDEN TRADITION OF ARABIC STUDIES. G. W. J. Drewes. (In *The Islamic Review*, Woking. October, 1951. pp. 9-15).

An historical account of the work undertaken and accomplished by Leiden University and its great Arabic scholars during the past four hundred years.

THE NEW ARABIC SCRIPT. Mahmoud Taymour Bey. (In *The Islamic Review*, Woking. October, 1951. pp. 16-20).

Presents reasons for the adoption of an alphabet of thirty forms, instead of the present three hundred, but would retain the diacritical points now in use.

II. ARCHAEOLOGY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS: THE NEAR EAST, 1950-1951. W. S. Smith. (In *The American Journal of Archaeology*, Richmond, Va. January, 1952. pp. 39-50).

A comprehensive survey of vast undertakings.

THE BRONZE AGE IN THE NEAR EAST. George M. A. Haufmann. (In *The American Journal of Archaeology*, Richmond, Va. January, 1952. pp. 27-38).

Completes an article begun in 1951 (vol. 55. pp. 355-365) dealing in great detail with "Stratigraphie comparée" by the celebrated archaeologist, Claude F. A. Schaeffer.

EXCAVATIONS AT DIBON IN MOAB. F. V. Winnett. (In *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, Baltimore. February, 1952. pp. 7-23).

A well illustrated account of work done 1950-1951 and includes the description of an early Moabite inscription by Fr. R. E. Murphy, O. Carm.

THE GHOSTS OF JERICHO. James L. Kelso. (In *The National Geographic Magazine*, Washington, D. C. December, 1951. pp. 825-844).

Aided by more than a hundred Arab refugees, the author conducted extensive excavations into the Jericho of the Herods.

JERICHO: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEM. Gurston Goldin. (In *The Hibbert Journal*, London. January, 1952. pp. 130-137).

A careful documented historical study.

MATARRAH: A SOUTHERN VARIANT OF THE HASSUNAN ASSEMBLAGE. Linda and R. J. Braidwood, J. G. Smith, and Charles Leslie. (In *The Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, Chicago. January, 1952. pp. 2-75).

An elaborately illustrated recital of findings in a village site in North Central Iraq, not far from Kirkuk.

LA TROISIÈME CAMPAGNE DE FOUILLES À TELL EL-FAR'AH PRÈS NAPLOUSE. R. P. R. de Vaux. (In *Revue Biblique*, Paris. Juillet, 1951. pp. 393-430; Octobre, 1951. pp. 566-590).

Fully illustrated account of extensive and rewarding diggings undertaken in 1950.

III. ARABIA

THE LOST RUINS OF QURAIYA. H. St. J. B. Philby. (In *The Geographical Journal*, London. December, 1951. pp. 448-458).

Although known to Doughty, Burton, Musil and other explorers, the ruins had not been visited for real investigation until 1951, when the author found much of interest in the citadel and in the surrounding terrain.

YEMEN OPENS THE DOOR TO PROGRESS. Harry Hoogstrall. (In *The National Geographic Magazine*, Washington, D. C. February, 1952. pp. 213-244).

Describes the activities of an American Navy scientific expedition surveying medical problems at the invitation of H. M. the King of Yemen.

IV. HISTORY OF ISLAM

DEUX VOYAGEURS DU XVE SIÈCLE EN TURQUIE. Izeddin. (In *Le Journal Asiatique*, Paris. 1951, fasc. 2, pp. 159-174).

The travellers are Bertrandon de le Broquière and Pero Tafur, who visited Adrianople at different times and left interesting accounts of the Turks and their ruler, Mourad II.