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THE QUARTERLY OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES  
IN PALESTINE

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# THE QUARTERLY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES

## INTRODUCTION

THE issue of a periodical at, it is hoped, quarterly intervals is among the activities which, thanks to the generous assistance of Mr. J. D. Rockefeller, Jr., the Department of Antiquities is now able to initiate.

The main purpose is to publish (*a*) any discoveries resulting either from excavations carried out by the Department, or from other methods of research, or that come to light in a more accidental manner in the course of the Department's ordinary administrative work; (*b*) notes upon such antiquities in the Department's Museum, or elsewhere in Palestine, as have not already been published; (*c*) texts and translations of texts describing historic monuments and sites; (*d*) general news of archaeological work in Palestine.

E. T. R.

## CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

*Note on a recent discovery.*

**I**N the course of work begun during the autumn of last year, with the object of preserving the carved panels covering the lintels over the entrances to the church, the following came to light.

The panel over the right-hand (blocked up) entrance consists of three slabs of marble; each slab is 0.67 m. deep and varies in thickness from 0.05 m. to 0.07 m. The lengths are as follows: right-hand slab at top 1.23 m., at bottom 1.26 m. Left-hand slab at top 1.32 m., at bottom 1.36 m. Middle slab at top 1.19 m., at bottom 1.125 m. Thus the middle slab is cut in the form of a keystone, i.e. with sloping sides, and its neighbours, on either hand, are shaped accordingly.

The back of the right-hand slab (the face of which is illustrated in Pl. I, fig. 1) was found to be carved, see Pl. I, fig. 2.

The date of the carving upon the face of the slab falls probably between 1150 and 1180.<sup>1</sup> In the opinion of the writer the carving upon the back of the slab may be dated somewhere between the Fatimid occupation of Jerusalem in the last third of the tenth century and the capture of Jerusalem by the Crusaders at the end of the eleventh. Dr. S. Flury, to whom a photograph of the carving was sent, and who was good enough to give his opinion, states that, had the slab been found in Cairo, he would attribute it to the tenth century; but that a provincial carver might still be producing work of this character in the eleventh century.<sup>2</sup>

E. T. R.

<sup>1</sup> Vincent et Abel, *Jérusalem Nouvelle*, Vol. II, p. 152; and de Vogüé, *Les Églises de la Terre Sainte*, p. 205.

<sup>2</sup> It is interesting to compare, in its general lines, the design of this panel with the Byzantine panel illustrated in Diehl's *Manuel d'Art Byzantin*, Vol. I, p. 457.



FIG. 1. CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE—RIGHT LINTEL, RIGHT END



FIG. 2. CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE—RIGHT LINTEL, BACK

