

The Muse

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DEAD SEA SCROLL FRAGMENTS

Currently there are approximately 28 unpublished Dead Sea Scroll fragments (mostly portions of Biblical books) in the United States. These fragments are housed at three institutions — Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary, Azusa Pacific University, and an anonymous institution (likely the new Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC). Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary plans to publish its nine fragments by the end of this year. Similarly, Azusa Pacific University plans to publish its four fragments by the end of this year. The other fifteen fragments were sold to an unannounced institution because scholars are not certain their authenticity. These fragments were sold by a French antiquities dealer for large sums of money.

Recently, archaeologists have found blank pieces of parchment in Dead Sea Scroll Cave No. 12. This presents the possibility that forgers used the blank parchments to copy replicas of the ancient texts. Therefore, the goal is not only to acquire Dead Sea Scroll fragments, but also to determine if they are authentic or forged.

—*Artifax*, Spring 2017; *Archaeology*, May/June 2017

MOVING THE US EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM?

In 1950, several years after modern Israel became a state, it declared Jerusalem to be its capital city. Over the seven decades since the declaration of Jerusalem as capital, international representatives have granted de facto recognition to Jerusalem, but not official recognition. The international community has refused to extend de jure recognition to Jerusalem as Israel's capital city. Instead they have placed their embassies in Tel Aviv, as they do not recognize East Jerusalem as a part of Jerusalem.

Will President Trump move the US Embassy to Jerusalem by the end of June 2017, thus recognizing all of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, or will he do as all other US Presidents before him have done by signing an official waiver for another year?

(ICEJ WORD FROM JERUSALEM, May 2017)



US Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel

MASADA & ARCHAEOLOGY

A team of archaeologists from Tel Aviv University recently returned to Masada mountain site near the Dead Sea in order to excavate Herod's Gardens. Masada was one of the dwellings of the Jewish rebels who

fought against the Romans after the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70. This is the first time that archaeological work has been done at Masada since 2006. Who knows what might be found!

—*Times of Israel*, Feb. 5, 2017

George Giacomakis, Director

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