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A Man Without Spare Time

Alfred von Rohr Sauer
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

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CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL MONTHLY

A Man Without Spare Time

**The Meaning of Archaeology for the
Exegetical Task**

ALFRED VON ROHR SAUER

**The Influence of Archaeological Evidence on the
Reconstruction of Religion in Monarchical Israel**

HORACE D. HUMMEL

Early Israel as the Kingdom of Yahweh

ALBERT E. GLOCK

The Goddess with the Tambourine

DELBERT R. HILLERS

Homiletics

Vol. XLI

October 1970

No. 9

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Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| A Man Without Spare Time | 515 |
| The Meaning of Archaeology for the Exegetical Task ALFRED VON ROHR SAUER | 519 |
| The Influence of Archaeological Evidence on the Reconstruction of Religion in Monarchical Israel HORACE D. HUMMEL | 542 |
| Early Israel as the Kingdom of Yahweh ALBERT E. GLOCK | 558 |
| The Goddess with the Tambourine DELBERT R. HILLERS | 606 |
| Homiletics | 620 |

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THE PAPERS THAT APPEAR IN THIS ISSUE WERE ORIGINALLY PRESENTED AT A symposium on the relationship between archaeology and theology held at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, October 3—5, 1969, and subsidized by the Aid Association for Lutherans. The introductory essay was delivered by Professor G. Ernest Wright under the title "Historical Knowledge and Revelation." This material has appeared in *Translating and Understanding the Old Testament, Essays in Honor of Herbert Gordon May*, ed. H. T. Frank and W. L. Reed (New York: Abingdon, 1970), pp. 279—303.

A special grant from the School for Graduate Studies of Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, has helped make this issue possible.

A Man Without Spare Time

A Sunday afternoon swimming party on the island of Cyprus on April 26, 1970, ended in grim tragedy. Dr. Paul W. Lapp of Pittsburgh was swimming with several colleagues at Six Mile Beach near Kyrenia when heavy seas suddenly enclosed him and claimed his life. Details of the drowning of the 39-year-old theologian and archaeologist were not made known.

Together with Dr. John Overbeck of the State University of New York at Albany, Dr. Lapp had planned to begin work at a new archaeological site at Idalion on the island of Cyprus. To this task he would have brought to bear what one of his colleagues has called "a position of prestige and respect in Palestinian archaeology unequaled among those of his own generation and rarely surpassed by his elders." *

Dr. Lapp was probably best known in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as the director of the Joint Archaeological Expedition to Taanach in Northern Palestine, a project sponsored by the School for Graduate Studies of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and the American Schools of Oriental Research in Jerusalem (ASOR)

* Edward F. Campbell Jr. in *The Biblical Archaeologist*, 33 (May 1970), 60.

and funded by the Aid Association for Lutherans of Appleton, Wis. With a staff of 20 to 30 American scholars, Professor Lapp directed three campaigns on the ancient mound of Taanach overlooking the beautiful valley of Jezreel in 1963, 1966, and 1968. At the time of his death he was engaged in directing the publication of the four-volume Final Report on the Taanach expeditions.

His achievements as an archaeologist were recognized far beyond his own church body. These began when he received the Annual ASOR Fellowship to the American School in Jerusalem for the 1957—58 school year. This fellowship helped lay the groundwork for the many years of experience in field archaeology that Dr. Lapp gained in the Holy Land. During the summer of 1957 he and his wife, Nancy, joined the Shechem Archaeological Expedition at which both received their "boot training" in ceramic typology and the techniques of digging under the general leadership of Professor G. Ernest Wright. During that year in Jerusalem, Lapp also applied for admission to the Th.D. program at Harvard Divinity School. His studies at Harvard under Professor Wright led to a Th.

D. dissertation on the pottery analysis of a very difficult 300-year archaeological period in Palestine between the Old and New Testaments. For the 1959—60 school year he was appointed Annual Professor at the American School in Jerusalem and thus received an opportunity to extend his horizon in Palestinian archaeology.

The summer of 1960 marked the beginning of a significant 5-year period in which Dr. Lapp served as director of the American School in Jerusalem. These years enabled him to initiate excavation work at many sites that will be associated with his name. His first experience as a director came with the preliminary sounding at Araq el-Amir in Wadi Sir on the east bank of the Jordan in the spring of 1961. At that dig plans also began to take shape for the Joint Concordia-ASOR Excavations at Tell Ta'annek, which were begun in 1963 and continued in 1966 and 1968. The sounding at Araq el-Amir was followed by two campaigns at the same site in the fall of 1961 and the fall of 1962. By December 1963 Dr. Lapp had become so familiar with the topography and archaeology of the Holy Land that he wrote an article entitled, "Palestine: Known but Mostly Unknown," a study that has been widely acclaimed as a definitive treatise on this geographical area of the Near East.

Among his best known excavations is the uncovering of the ancient cemetery at Bab ed-Dra in the Lisan area near the southeast shore of the Dead Sea. Other major operations that he directed include those at Wadi Daliyeh, Tell er-Rumeith, Dahr Mirzbaneh, and Tell el-Ful. In 1964 to 1965 Dr. Lapp took on the important assignment as Senior Field Advisor for a project known as Aid for International De-

velopment (AID), conducted by the State Department of the United States on the west bank of the Jordan River. In this capacity he helped train young Arabs in the techniques of field archaeology at such sites as Samaria and the ruins of Qumran, near which the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

From 1965 to 1968 Dr. Lapp served as professor of archaeology and the history of the Ancient Near East at the American School in Jerusalem. During this time he also embarked on an extended lecture tour in the United States, which took him to many of the member schools of ASOR affiliation in the fall of 1966. The Haskell Lectures, which he delivered at Oberlin on that tour, have been published under the title *Biblical Archaeology and History* (New York: World, 1969). Since the fall of 1968 Dr. Lapp had been professor of Old Testament and archaeology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Paul Wilbert Lapp was born on August 5, 1930, in Sacramento, Calif., the son of a railway mail clerk. For 8 years (1936 to 1944) he attended Trinity Lutheran School in Sacramento. The records indicate that he attended Kit Carson Junior High School and the Senior High School of Sacramento and then enrolled at Concordia College of Oakland, Calif. His college transcript from Oakland Concordia shows that he received straight A's in all his courses.

On July 9, 1949, he applied for entry to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The questionnaire he filled out in connection with that application is an index to his character. After answering many detailed questions about his qualifications, he was asked, "How do you spend your spare time?"

(answer fully)" To this Paul simply wrote, "Have none." These two words are indicative of his entire career as a graduate student, archaeological director, and professor. In the spring of 1955 he was awarded simultaneously his theological diploma from Concordia Seminary and a Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of California in Berkeley.

Following his seminary graduation, Dr. Lapp enrolled at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., majoring in archaeology and Oriental languages. He was also ordained as a minister in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

During his graduate studies at the Johns Hopkins University Dr. Lapp met and married Nancy Renn, who was serving under the noted Dr. William Foxwell Albright as secretary and research assistant. Nancy and Paul soon came to be recognized as a very promising team of Biblical archaeologists. Their marriage was blessed with five children: Deborah, Daniel, Sharon, and the twins, Diana and David.

According to Nancy Lapp's wishes her husband's remains were flown to Palestine, arriving at Lod (Lydda) Airport on April 30 in the afternoon, and were brought to St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem, where the burial service was held on May 1 at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Lapp was buried in the cemetery near the New Ecumenical Center, Tantur, adjoining the highway from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. Among the honorary pallbearers was Père Roland de Vaux of the École Biblique, with whom Paul had been closely associated during all his years in Jerusalem.

On April 30 at 2 p.m. a memorial service was held in the chapel of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Many of Dr. Lapp's friends from all parts of the United States were in attendance, including most of the members of the Taanach Core Staff who had worked with him in Palestine. At the service the Rev. Jerry Wagner of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church of Pittsburgh presided. The Scriptures were read by the Rev. William Lewis of Christ Episcopal Church, a close friend of the family. The sermon was delivered by Dr. Donald G. Miller, president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Any tribute to Paul Lapp would need to include at least some reference to the many clergymen of our church and scholars of the world who were inspired to become interested in archaeology through contact with him. This writer, for one, had paid only passing attention to archaeology, until his sabbatical leave in 1960—61 introduced him to Dr. Lapp's projects and proposals in this field and laid the foundation for close cooperation in archaeological work that was to continue throughout the decade. Three other field supervisors of the Taanach Expedition, Delbert R. Hillers, Albert E. Glock, and Carl Graesser Jr., learned early in their careers to look to Dr. Lapp for direction and guidance in archaeological method.

During the 1963 campaign at Taanach architect David L. Voelter and Field Assistant Walter E. Rast joined Dr. Lapp's staff. Others who came under his influence at this time included Rudolph H. Dornemann, Robert Drews, George Nickelsburg Jr., John W. Ribar, Mrs. Albert (Lois Sohn) Glock, the registrar, and James A. Sauer, pottery registrar, all from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. From ASOR-affiliated schools such names as H. Keith Beebe, James M. Fennelly, and

Thomas L. McClellan should be mentioned.

In the summer of 1966 additional assistants were named in the Taanach field operation: Ralph Klein, Herbert Spomer, and Ralph Gehrke of the Concordia system; and Albert de Pury, Yusef Habbab, H. Thomas Frank, Paul Tweedy, Herbert Huffmon, Dorothy K. Hill, and Eileen Emmer with ASOR connections. Fouad and Issa Zoghbi served as draftsmen.

During the 1968 campaign the following Biblical scholars were brought under Dr. Lapp's tutelage: Holland H. Jones, Harvey Lange, Ray Martens, Mark Hillmer, James Rimbach, Marc Kirk, Michael Hagebusch, and Roger Uitti of the Concordia fellowship; H. Keith Beebe, John Grindel, Philip King, John Landgraf, Albert de Pury, Robert Schacht, William Sladek, Taft and Willard Chase, Nicholas Vester, Thomas Schaub, and Dorothy K. Hill from various ASOR backgrounds.

When collegian Paul answered the query about how he spent his spare time with the quip "Have none," he reviewed in two words what was to characterize his career during the next two decades. From 1950

to 1970 there were so many goals to be accomplished, so many objectives to be achieved, that spare time was actually a nonexistent entity in this man's life. His professional apprenticeship was concluded during the decade of the '50s. What he contributed in scholarship, in leadership, and in Arab-American goodwill during the decade of the '60s will be remembered and appreciated most by those who were privileged to work closely with him.

For this reason his closest colleagues are shocked by his premature death. What he had dug with precision and stamina during the '60s was to have been meticulously published and made available to the public during the research-packed '70s. His colleagues and friends can only join hands in stating that where he had no spare time, they will give freely of their time, spare and otherwise, so that the results of his work may be preserved for generations of archaeologists to come.

ALFRED VON ROHR SAUER
Associate Director
 Joint Concordia-ASOR
 Excavations at Tell Ta'annek