

# POMPEII FINDS RIVAL IN RUINS IN SAHARA

Dr. Bruno Roselli, Back From  
Tripoli, Tells How Entire City  
Is Being Dug From Sand.

## ROMAN HARBOR UNCOVERED

Palaces, Basilica, Baths and  
Amazing Statuary Are Found  
Virtually Intact.

## BURIED MANY CENTURIES

Leptis Magna, Deserted After Fall  
of Rome, Was Swallowed Up  
by the Desert.

Discoveries just made in excavating the ancient Roman city of Leptis Magna, buried for centuries beneath the sands of the Libyan Desert in Northern Africa, indicate that it will prove of historical and artistic importance equal to, if not greater than, Pompeii, in the opinion of Dr. Bruno Roselli, professor of Italian at Vassar College, who returned yesterday from Tripoli on the White Star Line steamship Homeric.

Already amazingly beautiful statuary of the highest Roman type has been unearthed, together with palaces, basilica, baths and the ruins of a Roman harbor—the first of the sort ever to have been discovered. Dr. Roselli said the work, which is being done by 200 Arab prisoners of war, under the direction of Prof. Renato Bartoccini of the Italian Department of Fine Arts, would be completed in another two years. It has been established that the city once had from 100,000 to 300,000 inhabitants, and that it extended for two miles in one direction and about a mile and three-quarters in another.

"Leptis Magna was four or five miles from the sea, near the present Tripolitan village of Homs, about 100 miles east of Tripoli," said Dr. Roselli. "It should not be confused with Leptis Parva, about 300 miles to the westward of Tripoli. It was the birthplace of the Emperor Septimius Severus, who ruled in Rome in 300 A. D. His palace has been uncovered within the last few weeks. Chiseled deep in a huge block of granite, supported by columns, at the main entrance, are the words, 'Imperator Caesar Augustus Lucius Septimius.'"

### Buried Under Desert Sands.

Leptis Magna is being slowly resurrected, practically intact, from beneath four to fifteen yards of desert sand, Dr. Roselli said. Many of the walls of buildings have fallen from the weight of the sand, but the excavating is being done with such care that it is easily possible to place them in position again. None of the stones are missing. Some of the statuary is broken, but Professor Bartoccini is hopeful of finding all of the fragments. It is believed that some of the art objects will prove equal in value to anything of the sort in the Louvre or elsewhere.

"Leptis Magna had begun to decline before Rome finally fell in 476 A. D.," Dr. Roselli said. "After that it soon became a dead city. The inhabitants died or wandered away. The trees with which it was once surrounded were cut down and there was nothing left to prevent the encroachment of the desert, and the sand began gradually to sift in. There were earthquakes at some undetermined period and they did some damage to the walls.

"About 800 A. D. the Arabs came. Unlike the barbarian hordes that swept over Italy, they did not destroy nor did they occupy the ruins. The place had been contaminated for them by the fact that Christian dogs once had lived there. The Arabs took forty huge stone columns, but that was all. These columns were transported eighty miles to the westward across the desert and were used in building the Mosque of Taglura which is still standing.

### City Discovered Eighty Years Ago.

"The existence of the buried city was first discovered by a French archaeologist about eighty years ago. He came upon the tops of columns protruding above the desert. Turkey ruled Tripoli at that time. The interior of the country is the wildest part of North Africa, and things there are as they were centuries ago. Nothing in the way of excavating was possible until Italy took over the country in 1911 and 1912.

"Then, before scarcely anything was done, the World War came. Italy could not conduct both military operations in the Tripolitan hinterland and also actively join the Allies. She chose the latter alternative and withdrew her military forces in Tripoli to the coast, holding five cities with her armed forces. It was not until 1920 that she began to nibble again at Tripoli, and then it was possible to begin work at Leptis Magna.

"When the city was in its prime it was the centre of a large and prosperous agricultural region which was the granary of Rome. Professor Bartoccini has been at work there for the last eight months. No road leads over the hundred miles of desert which separate Leptis Magna from Tripoli, but one is being constructed now.

"One of the most important finds thus far, from an artistic standpoint, is a statue of Esculapius, the father of medicine. The head is missing, but it is undoubtedly buried in the sand near by and it is believed that it will be recovered later. There is a snake attached to the figure, which is about one and a half life size and executed with a high degree of artistry.

### Decorative Work Remarkable.

"All of the buildings and statues unearthed are of a pronounced Roman type, with a touch of the Oriental and Egyptian. Some of the decorative work is remarkable. Four weeks ago a magnificent head was found in perfect condition. Columns nine meters high have been uncovered. Nothing like them has been found in any Roman ruins. Imposing and unspoiled palaces already have been exposed by the digging with spacious court yards still paved with the flagstones of Roman days.

"On what was once an arm of the sea, the only Roman harbor ever discovered has been found. The quays and the steps leading down to the water are in almost perfect condition. Galleys must once have been moored there to transport grain to the Imperial City. Archaeologists have hither been puzzled as to the exact method adopted by the Romans in building their harbors. Even the warehouses which held the grain are still standing. No buried city has ever yielded anything like it.

"Pompeii, when it was dug from beneath the ashes of Vesuvius, gave an almost perfect picture of how the Romans lived, of their kitchen utensils and of minute details of their homes. Leptis Magna will be of equal importance, but it has far more imposing structures and more valuable works of art than any found in Pompeii. The fact that it was the birthplace of the Emperor Septimius Severus, and that he went there frequently, gave it an added importance and dignity and it had a splendor of which Pompeii could never boast."

The utmost care is necessary in the excavations, Dr. Roselli said, because in many instances the walls and pillars of the building have been crushed from their horizontal positions by the weight of the drifting sand. They are uncov-

ered foot by foot, and it possible in many places for the Arab workmen to reconstruct the walls and to put the scattered stones in their original places. This is not necessary everywhere, but wherever it is, it is done under Professor Bartoccini's immediate direction.

Dr. Roselli, who left Tripoli Aug. 21, said the Italians had restored the Roman arch of triumph in that city, which until recently had been used by the Arabs as a motion picture theatre. When Governor Volpe, the present Italian executive, first came, Dr. Roselli said, the Arabs had little respect for him or for his authority. Inquiry developed that this feeling was due to the fact that he did not immediately put to death those who were known to be opposed to him, as his Turkish predecessors always had done. The Governor accordingly caused the basement of the gubernatorial palace to be remodelled, Dr. Roselli said, and at present has 150 Arab hostages confined there. His action in this respect greatly added to his prestige with the natives, according to Dr. Roselli.

Dr. Roselli said Italy at present had 21,000 troops in Tripoli. Capital punishment had been abolished, he said, for all crimes except that of cutting telegraph wires.

# FORGOTTEN CITY FOUND IN AFRICAN LAND

By DIANA RICE.

ON the rim of North Africa a great marble city buried beneath the obliterating sands of centuries has been discovered by Italian explorers and scientists. When completely disinterred it will perhaps resemble Rome of her imperial days more than anything else that exists on earth today.

The almost forgotten city has a hero known to history. He was a child of obscure parentage; he climbed to power, became a Caesar about 200 A. D., and, it is said, caused to be reared on the scenes of his childhood the pink and green palaces now emerging from their ancient hiding place.

Leptis Magna, a hundred miles east of Tripoli, was once an oasis and a populous city in the Libyan Desert. Its quays were lapped by the waters of a mighty river that linked it with the blue Mediterranean, four miles away. Some of the quays have now been uncovered, to the delight of antiquarians who have long wished to study at first hand an early Roman harbor. A lighthouse, too, of uncertain age has added zest to the research.

Dr. Bruno Roselli, Professor of Italian at Vassar College, spent last Summer near the excavations, and told recently

of the eight months' work that has already brought to light the general character and dimensions of the early Roman town.

"Finding the name Septimius Severus carved on one of the stone arches," said Dr. Roselli, "fixes beyond question the identity of the city. Scholars have long known that somewhere in the sands east of Tripoli there was once a city called Leptis Magna, near a city called Sabrata, which was near another city called Oea. But these three cities have so long been lost under the common name of Tripoli (on the site of ancient Oea) that their existence is almost forgotten.

"The explorer Rohlfs, one of the first white men to cross the Libyan Desert, mentions the cities in his book written eighty years ago. Sabrata has been located some twenty miles west of Tripoli, but an old amphitheatre and a few mosaics are all that have thus far been found there. Nothing has been unearthed to indicate that it was once an imperial city.

"Leptis Magna is quite different. There is no doubt now that it was the birthplace and the home of a Caesar, and an imperial city of great distinction. Every day new evidences of its former magnificence are brought to light.

"For instance, only an imperial city had such elaborate baths as those found in Leptis Magna. There are baths of marble and stone, with large pipes still intact—pipes between two walls which carried hot water to the steam rooms. Some of the pipes are of cement. Others are made of bricks similar to the bricks we use today, but larger.

"The first bathhouse discovered was near a building which has been identified as the Emperor's palace, although but five pillars of it have so far been entirely excavated. Another bathhouse found at a considerable distance from the first one supports the theory that the city must have been a large and very rich one. For in those days only cities of the first importance had baths in more than one neighborhood. A town then was in luck to have any sort of public bath. Naturally, no records of a historical character have been found in the bathhouses, for establishments of that sort are obviously not the places to expect such finds.

Like the Parthenon.

"Columns nine meters high, resembling in size and shape those of the Parthenon, form part of the Imperial Palace. All the columns found so far are about the same length, showing that the structures were of an imposing nature. These columns are of the finest marble in green, yellow, blue and other colors—marble that must have been brought in on large barges from a considerable distance. This accounts, no doubt, for the extensive quays along what was once a river.

"A stream must have intersected the city, for at various places stone bridges have been uncovered, showing the path of an early waterway. These are all of superior masonry, substantially built,

## Dr. Roselli of Vassar Describes Visit to Leptis Magna, Built by the Romans

and well preserved by the sand that has packed around them.

"It is yet too early to tell much about the Imperial Palace itself, for part of it is still under twenty feet of sand. Much time will be required to clear it entirely. The quality of the marble, the workmanship, the size of the pillars, all point to a dwelling of regal dimensions. It is thought by Professor Renato Bartoccini of the Italian Department of Fine Arts, who has charge of the excavations, that the site of the royal residence is the most likely place to find some record of Septimius Severus and his city. Whether these records, if found, will be under foundation stones or carved on the stones themselves it is impossible to say.

"The period that produced Caesar Augustus Lucius Septimius is the period about which scholars know least. Authentic documents are few, and so are relics of his contributions to letters and art. Leptis Magna may reveal the secrets of his time. Dio Cassius, the Greek historian and a contemporary of Septimius Severus, tells something of this Caesar and speaks of his superstitions and his belief in miraculous signs. It is not unlikely that Septimius was influenced by the religions of Egypt, near at hand, and by other Oriental religions, but so far nothing has been found bearing on this point.

"Carvings on the heads of several statues dug up show superlative craftsmanship. A dozen or so statues already found lead to the belief that many more lie in the twenty or thirty feet of sand

that still covers most of the city. It was in this part of the world that Italian archaeologists found the Venus of Cyrene. That statue, now in the Vatican, has been likened by students of art to the Venus de Milo. So far no household utensils, toilet articles, small pieces of interior adornment or other things of an intimate nature have been found.

"Near the quays, of which there are a large number, showing that Leptis Magna was an important shipping point, are the ruins of a lighthouse. It is now practically a mass of stones and will have to be put together piece by piece before any one can tell how it looked originally. In all the buildings so far unearthed there does not appear to be any stone missing. In many instances an entire wall has been toppled over by the weight of the sand. In others, where the stones have fallen one by one, the iron bolts that held the stones together have been found, so that it will be possible to rebuild the city in its first form. The tops of some of the pillars look as if they had been gnawed by an animal. The wind-driven sand has eaten out holes in the marble.

"Homs, the city nearest Leptis Magna, is a typical desert town and is reached by camel trains. It has an inferior harbor, where boats are unable to make a landing in stormy weather. Sand taken from the Leptis Magna ruins—and tons have already been removed—is loaded on barges in this harbor and dumped in the Mediterranean. Sand storms make the work difficult and necessitate building

fences around buildings already cleared. Originally the city was surrounded by date palms and other trees, which served as a break against desert winds; and, as is the custom in tropical countries, palms were planted along the waterways of the town.

"The ancient city must have commanded an imposing view of the Mediterranean, though it is yet hard to tell just what its original level was. In some places the sand is forty to fifty feet deep. In others it is only ten or twelve. Looking across what now appears to be desert, you see a group of low sand hills. Under these hills are the palaces and theatres of Septimius Severus."

An Unfriendly Land.

According to Dr. Roselli, the belligerent nature of the country through the centuries has helped to keep the ruins intact. Few Europeans ventured into this wildest part of North Africa. After Rome fell barbarian hordes swept over the country. Later, while Turkey ostensibly ruled the vilayet of Tripoli, the mother city, Constantinople, paid little heed to the distant colony, only turning avaricious eyes toward it when a depleted home exchequer suggested possible emoluments from the reigning bey. It was along the Bay of Tripoli that the Barbary pirates flourished for so many years. Italy took over the colony in 1911, but it was not until two years after the armistice that she began a program which has to a degree opened up Tripoli to the outside world.

"Under General Volpe, the present military governor of the province, many improvements have been made in and near Tripoli. An adequate water system now carries a supply of fresh water into the city from a near-by spring. Roads have been laid, motor buses connect with some of the suburbs, but it is still wild country inland." And Dr. Roselli smiled over the memory of bumpy roads he had traversed to reach Leptis Magna.

"Roads plainly marked on the map are little more than camel trails. The desert mark is a hump of sand left by a camel's paws. But the new road between Tripoli and Leptis Magna will soon be completed. Fifty miles of it are well under construction, and the remaining fifty should be finished next Spring. It is then planned to hold an International Congress of Archaeologists on the site of the ruins. Details for this meeting are being worked out by General Volpe and Professor Bartoccini.

"Most people think of Tripoli as a remote, inaccessible spot requiring weeks of travel to reach. As a matter of fact, you can make the round trip from Rome in a week, though this does not give you much time at the ruins. The Tripolino Express runs from Rome to Messina, where you get a direct boat to Tripoli. The time between boats gives you at least a chance to see the ruins, if not to study them.

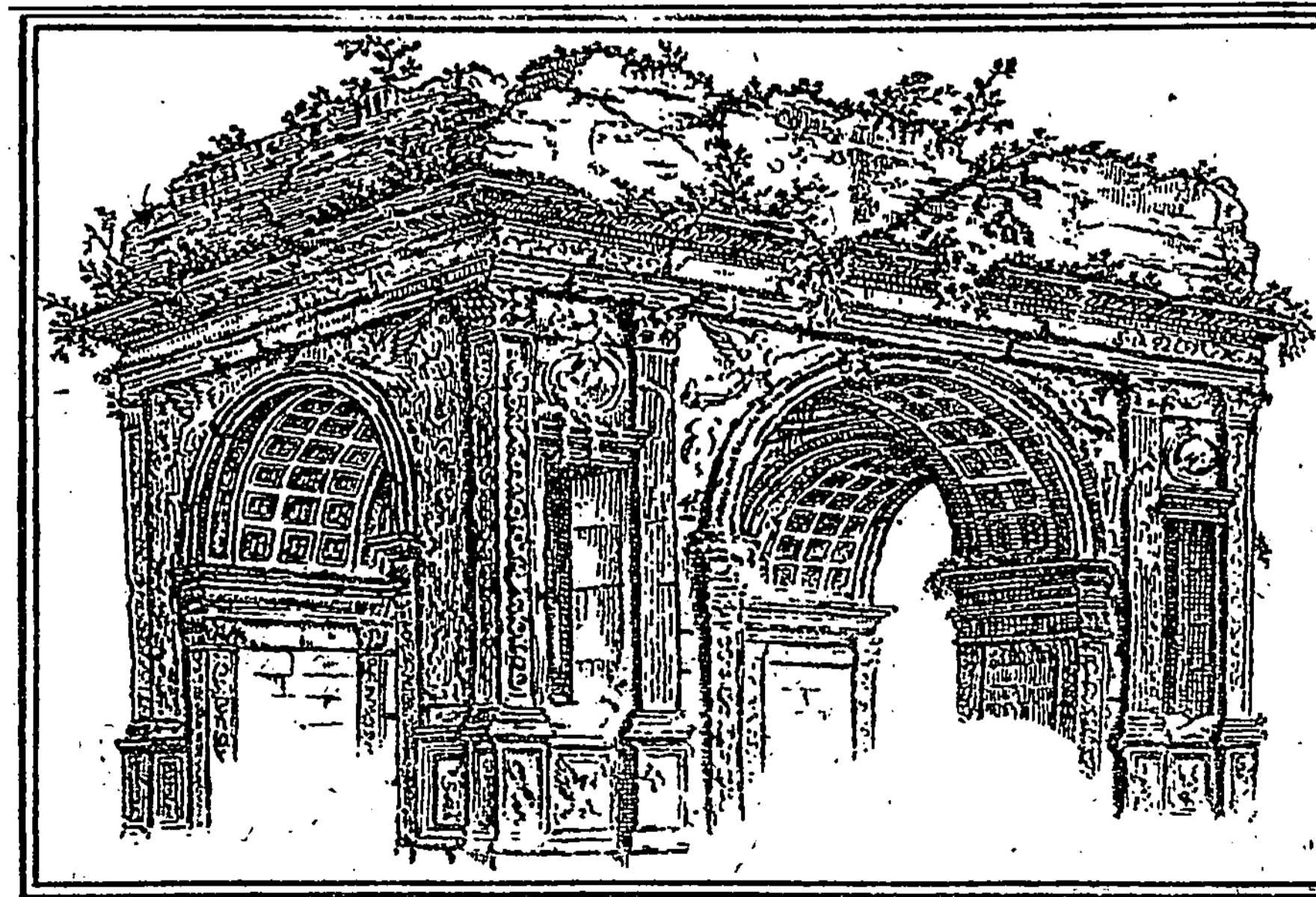
"A triumphal arch recently restored in Tripoli, over which the Arabs had built a moving picture theatre, has been identified as of the period of

Septimius Severus, and closely resembles the arches of Leptis Magna.

"Irrigation, which is being extended beyond Tripoli, has greatly improved the character of the country, and farmers are increasing in numbers. Thirteen crops of alfalfa are raised in a year. Almonds, grapes, peaches, superior dates and olives are produced in large quantities. From twenty to thirty forts, which formed part of the vilayet's fortifications in the past, have been given to farmers for cultivation. In this way large outlying sections are being reclaimed and will eventually bring in a new type of settler. Italy needs to find a place for her surplus home population, and this colony, it is thought, will afford an outlet."

In Dr. Roselli's opinion the ruins of the city of Leptis Magna may be compared in many respects to the ruins of Pompeii, though the preservation of the Italian city by volcanic ashes was naturally more complete. Floors of decorated tile and flagstone, carved ornaments, statuary and heavy objects such as stone settees, benches and tables are still intact. Indications are that more than 200 pillars of the size of those in the Parthenon will be recovered in almost a perfect state of preservation. Dr. Roselli does not think that two years, the time now set for the excavating, is long enough.

## TRIUMPHAL ARCH AT TRIPOLI



Built in the Days of Septimius Severus.

# **FIND GREAT TREASURES IN OLD LEPTIS MAGNA**

## ***Italian Archaeologists Unearth Perfect Roman Statues and Part of Imperial Palace.***

TRIPOLI, Oct. 1 (Associated Press).—More marvelous and artistic treasures of the ancient Roman Empire are being brought to light by excavation made at Homs (Leptis Magna), Tripolitania, by Prof. Bartocchini, the young archaeologist who, under the encouragement of Count Volpi, Governor of Tripolitania, has discovered an entire buried city containing objects of incalculable value.

Beneath two splendid columns of cipoline marble were found lying an exquisite Venus of the Medici type, admirably preserved, and near by was the almost perfect figure of a Roman youth. Both statues evidently were part of the decorations of magnificent baths. These baths, in a large measure, survive and are being reconstructed. It is expected they will be complete by the end of the year.

Other investigations disclosed the pylons of the arch of the imperial palace of Lucius Septimius Severus, the Roman Emperor, who was born there. Many interesting sculptures depicting scenes of war triumphs, in which the figures of the Emperor and his family are easily recognizable, have already been found.

**The New York Times**

Published: October 2, 1924

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# "CURSE" STILL HOVERS OVER CARTHAGE

Uttered by Scipio When Ancient City Was Destroyed, It Has Come Down Through the Centuries to Disturb Work of Modern Explorer Who Digs Amid Ruins

By ALMA REED

THROUGH the whole history of archaeology the "curse" runs like a crimson thread.

Simple native peoples the world over regard the thrust of the excavator's spade as the black magic that will release malignant power from ancient temple and tomb. Long before misfortune came to Lord Carnarvon's expedition, Luxor had its fear complex. The Arabs speculated constantly as to how and when evil would fall upon the violators of Tut-ankh-Amen's resting place.

The Maya Indians of certain pueblos near Chichen-Itza have their own theory of the assassination of their beloved leader, Felipe Carrillo, late Governor of Yucatan. When he opened to scientist and tourist the famous capital of the vanished Itzaes he was warned that the "brujas," or spirits, would demand a living sacrifice for this disturbance of their altars. The old "sabios" will tell you now that he not only refused to heed them but reproached them with childish superstition. "And because," they explain, "he would not kill and offer up some animal in exchange for the stones he had caused to be taken out, the 'brujas' sent him a cruel 'destino.'"

Nowhere, perhaps, has the curse tradition a background of darker fatality than at the ruins of Carthage, where Count Byron Kuhn de Prorok is directing explorations under the auspices of the French Service des Antiquites. Roman Emperors have steered their plans to avoid its menacing shadow. History's greatest names have been enmeshed in its far-flung toils. North Africa has associated it with sinister events for more than twenty centuries. And today, as science turns the blood-drenched soil to salvage forgotten grandeur, the story of the curse revives.

## Carthage Put to the Torch

Carthage was formally cursed by Scipio Africanus the Younger in the Spring of 146 B. C., after he had reduced the magnificent city to a charred waste. The Senate, as the very keystone of Roman policy, had decreed that the proud Punic capital should be wiped out and condemned to eternal desolation. Ten commissioners were appointed to exact the penalty for outraged Roman pride. Fires were lighted in all directions by the soldiers and by the Carthaginians themselves when they realized all was lost. The flames raged for seventeen days. The thoroughness with which the decree was executed is grimly attested by the recent discovery of a thick layer of ashes, strewn with blackened bones, broken glass and fragments of heat-twisted metal.

Standing on the Hill of Junon, overlooking the wreck of the city, Scipio reflected a moment on the mutability of human affairs and then called down the wrath of the gods upon any one who should build a dwelling or plant corn on the site, or attempt to reconstruct the ruins. The citadel of Byrsa, official shrine of the national worship, and Megara, the centre of Carthaginian wealth and government, were cursed separately.

There are some fifty lines in the original text of Scipio's curse as given by Appian of Alexandria, Zonaras and Macrob, but stripped of repetitions and redundant vituperation, the doom of Carthage was pronounced in these words:

"God of Death and War, bring infernal terrors into this cursed city of Carthage and against its army and its people! We curse with the utmost might of our being these people and this army! We curse

whoever occupied these palaces, whoever worked in these fields, whoever lived upon this soil! And we implore that they be deprived forever of light from above.

"By all the laws of the highest malediction, let them be torn to bits! Let them be stricken down, if they even speak its forbidden name! Hellas, our Mother, and Jupiter, hear me! (at these words, he touched the earth, raised his hands to the heavens, beat his breast, then looked toward Megara and the Acropolis.)

"Eternal silence and desolation

brilliant victory over their most formidable enemy. His passing was so obscure that not even his tomb was known, and to this day it has not been located.

Another curse flung from the funeral pyre of the Punic civilization echoes down through history. Uttered in proud despair by the last Queen of Carthage, its burden has more of heroism and less of hate.

During the three-year siege that preceded Scipio's victory, famine and pestilence stalked unchecked in the doomed city, while the enemy

sun would never see him survive Carthage. Hasdrubal secretly surrendered to Scipio. Finding themselves abandoned by their commander, the Carthaginians threw open the gates of Byrsa, and were granted amnesty, which meant slavery in the galleys or at Rome. The deserters retired to the Temple of Eschmoun. When they were attacked they set fire to the great structure and perished there in preference to a worse death. While the flames swept through the temple Hasdrubal's wife appeared on the

after them into the flames, a voluntary sacrifice to the honor of Carthage.

By the same heroic death and near the same spot, Queen Dido, 700 years before, consecrated the city she had founded. Her story, vaguely traced on the blurred edge of history, tells how the beautiful Sidonian Princess fled to the fair Kingdom of Iarbas on the shores of the Mediterranean. Becoming a suitor for her hand, Iarbas made her a gift of the hill of Byrsa. On its summit she founded her city and at the foot of the hill she dug a harbor. Here she welcomed the ships of Aeneas, like herself a wanderer. But when he betrayed and deserted her she built a pyre outside her palace and flung herself upon it.

Dido appears in the human record as the first known woman suicide. After her death she was deified and worshiped as the goddess of luck. Each year a maiden was offered at her shrine in commemoration of her sacrifice and to insure the continuance of material blessings.

Archaeology is attempting to identify her with Tanit, the goddess of the moon and the supreme deity of Carthage, whose temple has just been located by Count de Prorok. No clue has yet been found to their common identity, but the search has extricated from the welding of myth and fact the certainty that a woman has always represented the genius of Carthage. The moon swayed the city's destiny, and over it, from the earliest times, seemed to hang her triple veil of mystery, tragedy and doom.

## The Story of Salammbô

In his remarkable picture of the Carthage of the first Punic war Gustave Flaubert strikingly portrays this strange, sinister influence of the moon on Carthaginian life.

His beautiful heroine, Salammbô, who interprets the spirit of ancient Carthage for the modern world, passes the night hours in an effort to pierce the secret of the moon's power. Standing on her terrace with the priest of Tanit, "while Carthage spread itself below their feet and the gulf and the open sea were vaguely obscured in the color of the darkness," she questions him.

"The souls of the dead," he answers, "resolve themselves into the moon as do the corpses into the earth. Their tears compose her humidity. It is the dark abode full of mire, wrecks and tempests."

From its destruction to the present time the history of Carthage has reckoned with the curse of Scipio. A quarter of a century elapsed before any plan was advanced for the rebuilding of this strategic site on the Mediterranean. In 123 B. C. 6,000 colonists were sent from Rome under Caius Gracchus to found there a new city, known as Junonia. Some of the condemned territory was included within its limits, and the commentaries of the day attributed its dismal failure to this fact. Not long afterward Carthage reverted into a shunned wilderness.

The next move to reconstruct the famous metropolis did not ignore the wrath of the gods. During his campaign against Pompey, Julius Caesar, while encamped in North Africa, dreamed that he had solved Rome's pressing unemployment problem by the colonization of Carthage. Upon awakening he wrote in his diary, "Carthage must be rebuilt." Some historians insist that Caesar passed the night on the spot where Scipio leveled his direful threats against any one who should even dream of resurrecting the ruins. In any event, Caesar was murdered before the plan could be executed, but his son, Augustus, finding the memorandum



The Arab Workmen Strike Upon Learning That the "Punic Curse Stone" Had Been Found, Placing a Malediction Upon the Excavators.

Wide World Photos.

must remain here! Cursed be those who return! Doubly cursed are those who try to resurrect these ruins!"

Scipio's curse, voiced the unleashed Roman hatred that Carthaginian power had restrained for 120 years. It vibrated with Rome's frenzied exultation over the crushing of her most dreaded enemy, and the arrival of the long-delayed hour for vengeance. In it raged the leaping flames of a passion that had smoldered through the gloomy course of three Punic wars—through their fiendish cruelties, broken truces, and terror that was carried to the gates of Rome.

Scipio lived to curse the power that destroyed Carthage. Like Hannibal, he died in misery and in exile, and his end came in the same year. An ungrateful people soon forgot his

hemmed in its 700,000 inhabitants with massive fortifications. Although starving and decimated by disease, the Carthaginians showed desperate valor. Swimming out into the sea, they set fire to the Roman ships. They repulsed attacks by hurling showers of huge stones, the women cutting off their hair to provide thongs for the catapults. Finally, the Roman legions poured over the innermost wall and stormed the Forum. Then, through carnage that lasted for six days and nights, they forced their way to the Acropolis, a distance of only several hundred yards. The Brysa heights were still held by 50,000 wretched men and women, and 900 deserters from the Roman ranks. With them remained Hasdrubal the King, his wife and their two children.

Although he had protested that the

roof, dressed in her royal robes. Her children were at her side. Facing the Hill of Junon, where her husband sat at the feet of Scipio, she cried:

"For you Roman, the gods have no cause of indignation, since you exercise the right of war. But upon this Hasdrubal, betrayer of his country and her temples, of me and his children, may the gods of Carthage take vengeance and you be their instrument!"

Turning toward Hasdrubal, she said: "Wretch, traitor, most effeminate of men, this fire will entomb me and my children. In them, you will die this instant. Ah, what punishment will you not receive from him at whose feet you are now sitting!" Drawing a dagger, she stabbed her children and threw them into the burning temple. Then she leaped



"Salamambo Seeks to Pierce the Secret of the Moon While Carthage Spreads Itself Below Her Feet."  
Copyright by P. Sinbath.

carried out his wishes and built the present Carthage, according to Appian, "not on the site of the old one, but very near it, to avoid the ancient curse."

A huge gash on the slopes of Byrsa indicates the site of the first recorded archaeological excavations. At a period when Nero's extravagances had reached their height, and funds were consequently lowest, the Mad Emperor, acting on the advice of a certain Bassus, sent one hundred men to Carthage to search for the fabulous riches of Dido. For three months they dug unceasingly, but in vain, and then returned to Rome to report their failure. Nero, in a rage of disappointment, ordered them back under guard of Roman centurions. They were given another month in which to find the treasure. If they could not produce it by the expiration of that time, they were to be put to death by crucifixion.

#### Nero Revives the Curse

Day and night, they bored into Byrsa's rocky side, while each hour brought them nearer to their doom. On the last day nothing rewarded their efforts but an enormous hole, and they were crucified at the ruins of Dido's Temple. Elsewhere, Bassus met the same fate. Again Carthage remembered the curse of Scipio.

From the second to the fourth century, the persecution of Christians brought martyrdom to Carthage. St. Cyprian, Saturnus, Salsa, Felicitas, Perpetua, were numbered among the host sacrificed for their profession of faith. In 439, when Roman power on the North African Coast was broken by the Vandals, Carthage became the private stronghold of their leader, Genseric. At his death, forty years later, it was the prey of nomads and brigands. The havoc was temporarily stemmed by Belisarius, who in 533 made a triumphal advance with his Byzantine armada and claimed the city in the name of the Emperor Justinian.

But Carthage again became the scene of devastating wars and another century of ruthless sacking followed before the weakening power of the Greek Emperors finally broke under the flood of Arab invasion. Between the Byzantine occupation and the coming of Islam it is related that more than five million had fallen in the struggle for the accursed city.

In 638 Carthage was leveled to the dust for the second time, under Hassan, Governor of Egypt, who filled up her two great harbors. His work completely obliterated the ancient haven of the Carthaginian fleets that once nearly conquered the world.

It was not until the beginning of the nineteenth century that the site of the Punic ports was located. The discovery was made by an Italian, Count Camillo Borgia, first excavator of Carthage in modern times. During his researches at the Cothon or naval harbor he was overcome by the poisonous marsh gases. He died miserably near the spot where St. Louis, King of France, perished as a victim of the plague, and some say of Scipio's curse, while leading the last Crusade. Count Borgia's maps and manuscripts were lost to science and Scipio's curse was recalled once more.

Christian Falbe, the Danish explorer, next attempted to rescue the lost Carthaginian story. And his was the next martyrdom for science. In 1837, while swimming along the

course of the submerged sea wall, to trace its outline, he was caught in a whirlpool and drowned. Today a danger sign marks the place of his death, for the water still sweeps violently around the fallen turrets projecting above the sunken mass of masonry. But Falbe's work was not in vain. His maps of the Roman city are regarded as the most authentic ever made. His plan of the sea wall, which he followed for four miles along the coast, was used last Summer by Count de Prorok and the late Prince de Waldeck when for the first time submarine ruins were photographed from the air and their position recorded.

#### Renault's Last Words

Then came Jules Renault, the distinguished French archaeologist and the most eminent authority on the ruins of Carthage. He had devoted fifteen years to scientific labor when he was joined by Count de Prorok. Together they excavated a Roman cistern, in which Renault insisted upon living for closer research. The

dampness caused pneumonia, and he succumbed among the ruins in the Winter of 1920. His last words to Count de Prorok were: "Well, I suppose the curse has me at last!"

Prince de Waldeck, who came to Carthage with Count de Prorok's expedition, was killed last June at the ruins. He was speeding to board a homeward bound French liner when his automobile capsized. In its burned wreckage were most of the films he had just taken from the plane of Peletin d'Oisy, French ace and recent world flier. On the day preceding his death he received a double decoration from the French Government, one for his heroism throughout the war, the other for his achievements at Carthage.

Count de Prorok is the sole survivor of his original expedition to Carthage. Yet, in spite of this long list of tragedies, he is undaunted in his determination to spend his life in the excavation of its ruins and in the search for dead cities of the Sahara.

As the final discovery of the present season, immediately before

his departure for the United States, he unearthed a Punic curse tablet in the cemetery surrounding the temple of the Goddess Tanit. It was found among thousands of urns containing the bones of children who had been fed to the flames of Baal-Moloch. "If I were of a superstitious trend of mind," he says, "the inscription on this stone, which dates from the fourth century, B. C., would doubtless cool my ardor for Carthaginian excavation, for it reads: 'May the curse of Baal-Ammon shatter to pieces eternally whoever touches this tombstone!'"

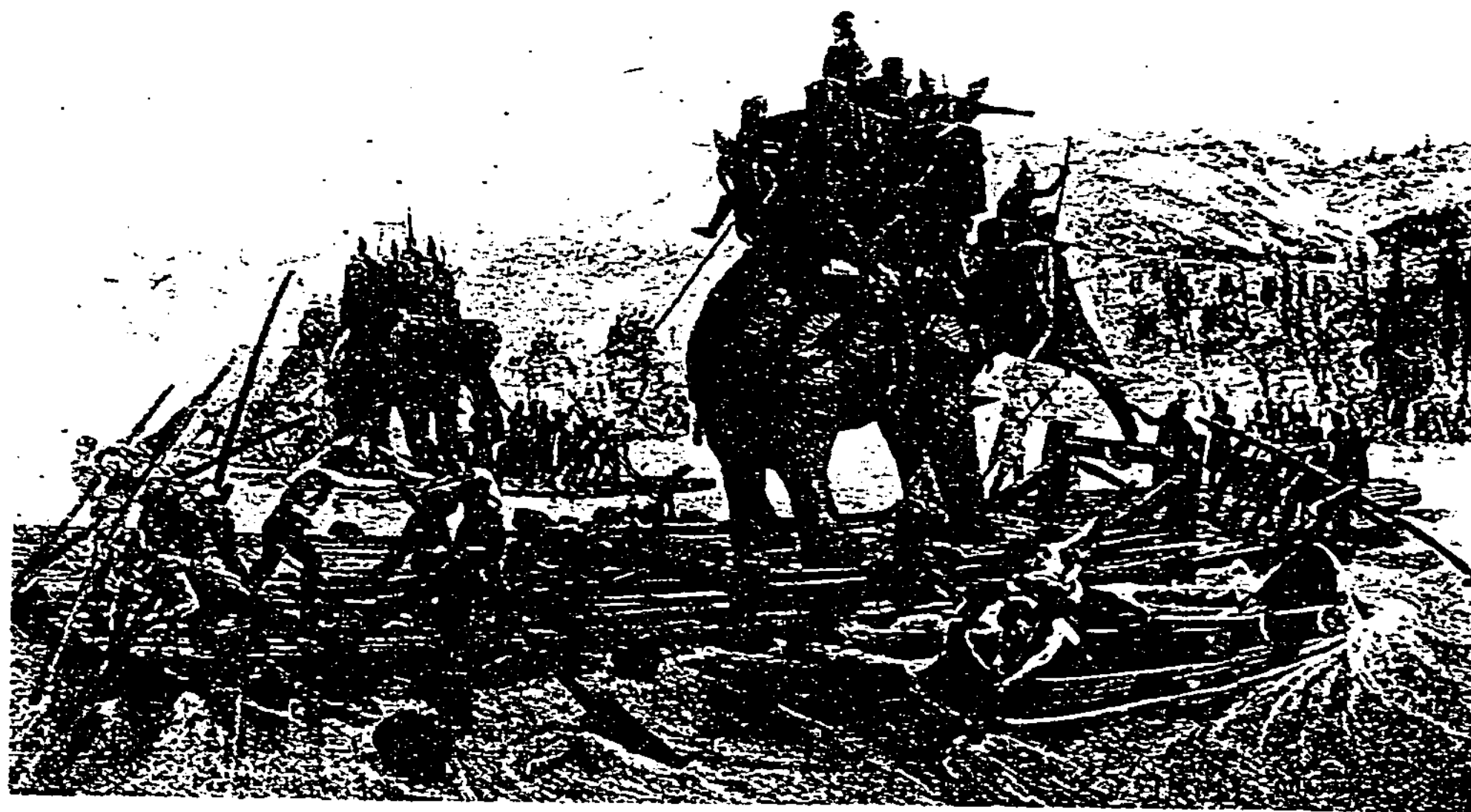
As the stone was being removed from the clay, M. Groselle, director of the Museum, slipped from the upper part of an embankment and was injured. While Count de Prorok was carrying the tablet to the Museum, Abbe Chabot identified the inscription as the most scathing of Punic maledictions. And when the Arab laborers—steeped in the lore of Scipio's curse—learned its meaning they called a "strike."

#### One Who Defies the Curse

However, the militant skeptic will find vindication in the fact that the man who has done the greatest amount of excavation at Carthage has successfully defied the curse for over half a century. He is Père Delattre of the White Fathers Mission to Africa. Thousands of treasures—representing the six civilizations that have builded, layer by layer, above the Carthage of Hannibal and of "Salamambo"—have been brought to the surface through his tireless zeal.

His monastery museum is dedicated to the memory of Cardinal Lavignerie, the last saint of Africa, who began the restoration of the early Christian monuments. Père Delattre's devotion has resulted in the discovery and exploration of hundreds of noble basilicas—some of them the oldest Christian edifices in the world—and countless tombs and relics, including the first representations of the Virgin Mary.

"Yet even Père Delattre," explained Count de Prorok, "has reckoned with Scipio's curse. For the venerable priest winks with sly humor when he tells you how he has purchased immunity from a heathen malediction by his labors for the glory of the Christian saints."



Carthage's Great Leader, Hannibal, Crossing the Rhone to Attack Rome.  
Henri Motte. From History of Carthage.