No. 152.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, March 3. 1890

Honorable William F. Wharton,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that, in a recent severe storm, the coat of arms of this office was blown down, and so damaged as to be unfit for use. I request, therefore, that a new coat of arms be supplied this office, as soon as may be convenient.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant

Consul.

No. 153

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, March. 15. 1890

Honorable William F. Wharton,
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

Referring to your dispatch No. 68, of the 14th ultimo, relative to obtaining for the Smithsonian Institution copies of the models of the Jerusalem Temples, I have the honor to enclose my reply to Professor Langley's communication, which I trust will be found to afford the desired information.

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant

Consul

Enclosure:
1. Mr. Gillman to Professor S. P. Langley, March. 15. 1890

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, Palestine, March 15. 1890.

Prof. S. P. Langley,
Secretary Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter of the 8th ultimo, I have to state that I have seen Mr. Schick with regard to the model of the Jerusalem Temples, and he informs me that, about one year ago, he sold his model in London, England, for £500. (packing and transportation extra), on condition that he should not make another model for sale or exhibition within the period of five years. Therefore he could not sell or exhibit such a model till March, 1894. —

The following is a description of the original model, now in London: It is made of wood and metal, painted in oil-colors and gilt, on a scale of $\frac{1}{200}$, and shows the entire of the Temple, enclosure (Mosque of Omar) and surroundings; the size being 8½ feet long, by 6½ ft. wide, and 2½ ft. high. It can be separated into three pieces, so as more easily to pack, or pass through any doorway. Besides, there is a great number of different pieces representing the successive structures, which can be put on and removed as required.

1st The Mountain is shown with all its topographical features, and the excavations and foundations of the structures.

2d The Temple of Solomon, with all the most minute details, is shown.

3d The Temple of Herod can be placed in position, on the removal of the Temple of Solomon (representing the destruction of the latter by the Chaldeans).

4th On the removal of the last structure, the present condition of the haram Esheriffe is shown, with both the Mosque of Omar and the Mosque El Aksa, the latter having been formerly the Church of St. James, built by Justinian.

In a new model, The Temple of Nehemiah would also be shown; and also the condition of the place at and during the time of the Crusades.

As Mr. Schick is now an old man, & having other occupation, he says it would take several years for him to construct a new model. But the price for the new and improved construction would be as above given, viz: £500. sterling, packing & transport extra.

I may here state that, some months ago, Mr. Oscar S. Straus of New York, our former Minister to Turkey, made similar enquiries through me, with the object of purchasing Mr. Schick's model. — To Mr. Straus I have returned a similar reply to the foregoing.

Trusting that the information I have here conveyed may answer the object of your enquiries.

I am, Dear Sir
Yours very respectfully.

Consul.

No. 154.

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, March 15. 1890

Honorable William F. Wharton
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches numbers 65 to 68, inclusive, dated respectively January 27th and 28th last, and the 13th and 14th ultimo. I have also received the roll of blank forms No. 104. —

I am, Sir
Your obedient Servant

Consul.

No. 155

Consulate of the United States,
Jerusalem, March 17. 1890

Honorable William F. Wharton
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the Directors of the Palestine Exploration Fund, London, England, have at length, and after the delay of some five years, received the expected Firman from the Sultan which gives them permission to resume their excavations and researches in the Holy Land.

They have been called upon to furnish the name of the site at and around which they propose to commence operations. It is probable this will be along the coast of Palestine, in the vicinity of Ashkelon and Gaza.

They are also pledged to transmit to the Imperial Museum at Constantinople all objects found in the excavations. They are however permitted to retain duplicates and to make copies, and to take squeezes, photographs, &c. of every thing. —

Arrangements have been entered into with Mr. Flinders Petrie, the well known and successful explorer of Egypt, to carry on the work. And appeals are made to subscribers and friends for assistance in raising the required funds, which it is estimated will amount to £1000, for the labors during the Spring months.

As I am a subscriber to the Palestine Exploration Fund, and am personally acquainted with Mr. Petrie, I shall endeavor to keep informed as to all important discoveries made in the work, duly transmitting accounts of same to the Department, if so desired.

Mr. Petrie has already arrived here.

I am, Sir
Your obedient Servant.

Consul.