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## IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ISRAEL

### *The Fourteenth Annual Convention*

On December 15 and 16, 1968, commencing with the lighting of the first Hanuka candle, the 14th Annual Convention of the Historical Society in Israel, in cooperation with the Association of History Teachers took place. It was devoted to the subject: "The Mediterranean: its Place in the History and Culture of the Jews and other Nations". His Excellency President Z. Shazar, Honorary President of the Historical Society, took part in the opening ceremony. The following lectures were heard:

Prof. H. H. Ben-Sasson: General Introduction.

Prof. M. Avi-Yonah: The Mediterranean — its Place in History.

Mr. Z. Hermann: Expansion of the Phoenicians and their Culture along the Shores of the Mediterranean.

Dr. M. Amit: Routes of Peace and Routes of War in the Mediterranean during the Classical Greek Period.

Dr. S. Appelbaum: The Spread of the Jewish Dispersion along the Shores of the Mediterranean during the Roman Hellenistic Period.

Dr. A. Grabois: Medieval Christian Pilgrimages to the Mediterranean Basin and their Influence on Christian Awareness of the Holy Land.

Dr. D. Jacoby: The Venetian Empire from the 13th to the 17th Centuries.

Dr. A. L. Motzkin: The Daily Life of a Jewish Family in 13th Century Fostat (from research on Genizah documents).

Dr. E. Sivan: Islam and the Mediterranean — a Renewed Examination of the Pirenne Thesis.

Mr. E. Sternberg: The Corsairs of Barbary and their Relationships with Jews in the Western Basin of the Mediterranean during the 16th and 18th Centuries.

Sgan-Aluf (Res.) M. Gihon: Effect of the Mediterranean Coast-line on Israel's Security as seen from a Historical Viewpoint.

On the second day of the Convention there was a guided tour to the excavations of the Southern Wall with an introduction by Dr. S. Safrai and explanations by Mr. M. Ben-Dov. As in former years, a large number of members and teachers participated in the Convention.

## THE JEWISH HISTORICAL GENERAL ARCHIVES

During the last few months the Archives made the following acquisitions:

### *Austria*

Dr. Hugo Gold, Tel-Aviv, gave the Archives reports, statutes, various prints, newspaper cuttings, lists of community members, minutes and letters (original and photocopy), all relating to the community of *Vienna* (1918—1945); Dr. Gold also presented the Archives with a number of manuscripts on the history of the Jews in that city, their institutions and buildings (17th—20th centuries). — In continuation of the survey which the JHGA are carrying out in the State Archives in *Vienna*, additional lists of documents and files on Jews were received. The State Archives also sent approximately 20,000 frames of microfilm (1487-1824), which had been ordered.