

In fact most of the great literature from Ancient Egypt that's in papyrus that has been preserved in papyrus that's been buried with school children who were copying these classics, and the classics have disappeared, but the children's copies -- when the child would die the parents would sometimes put his school copies in the grave with him, and the result is it's been preserved in that dry climate of Egypt. But in Palestine, all the ancient papyrus has disappeared.

Of course sometimes they wrote on potsherds. They wrote on materials that would last sometimes, but there is not much of that sort of thing that's been found. What has been found in Palestine we are tremendously interested in, but there is not a great deal.

Another difficulty in Palestine has been very often, the city has become a tell, a sort of hill, and on top of the hill very often there has been a shrine to a Mohammedan saint, or perhaps a little cemetery and you can't dig there. So you dig all around and you find where the poor people in the town lived, and you find some things of importance but when it comes to the central citidel very often you can't dig there because you'd be getting what they considered sacred ground. And that's where we would hope the town records might be if they lasted. So in Palestine, the early excavators gave dates that often differed by hundreds of years from each other. But the clue to Palestine to dating has been largely finding things from Mesopotamia in the one direction, or from Egypt in the other. For instance if you find a scarab in a building in Palestine which has the name of the Pharaoh on it, and you know from Egyptian records when this Pharaoh lived, you know that this house here was in existence after the time when that man began to reign. It == You could not get