

more of his determinations have lasted than of any of the explorers who succeeded him in following years. In 1851 Robinson made another brief trip through Palestine continuing the excellent work that he had done before.

The publication of Robinson's efforts gave a spur to Palestinian study and soon actual excavation began, but the point had not yet been reached where such excavation could be entirely profitable. The Palestine Exploration Fund, founded in England in 1865, laid out an ambitious but premature program of excavation to determine vital problems in Palestinian history. More fruitful was its work in sending trained engineers to make a survey of western Palestine (1871-8). This map formed a basis for decades of subsequent study. Unfortunately, the map was made before the work of Flinders Petrie, which, if known, would have resulted in adding certain very important data which were not generally included in the otherwise very excellent map that was prepared.

In 1890 the Palestine Exploration Fund asked Flinders Petrie, already a veteran in Egyptian exploration and excavation, to excavate for it at a place in southwestern Palestine which was thought to be the site of ancient Lachish. Forty years later the identification was proven to be incorrect, but this in no way detracts from the importance of Petrie's work, for in a few weeks he laid the foundation upon which all subsequent Palestinian study rests to a large extent. This consisted in pointing out the great importance of two factors, the "tell" and the use of pottery for dating.

Petrie observed that in ancient Palestine the number of places suitable for the founding of cities was limited by two necessary factors: (1) a good spring must be available, and (2) the location must be suited for defense against enemy attack. This meant that most towns were built on hills, and that they