



MINZAR TERRA SANTA
CAPHARNAUM

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stairway n.114 was built against the southern wall room 119, where several lamps and coins of the IV-V centuries A.D. were rescued; (3) finally the drain n. 115 was clearly put out of use when the north-eastern stairway was built. As a matter of fact, one of the side-branches connected with the same drain, was found inside the courtyard of the Synagogue in trench n. 12 : this was blocked by the foundations of the courtyard.

Dr. M. Dothan, on his visit to the place, warmly recommended that we should open more trenches inside the courtyard of the Synagogue, especially on its northern portion where the stone pavement was still in situ. We followed his suggestion and opened two main trenches nn. 11-12. In trench 11 we found an occupational level with a stone pavement. This continues under the foundations of the Synagogue and it is nothing less than the continuation of a stone pavement found in trench n.2 in 1969. The pottery of the fill above this occupation level and the few coins bring us to the early fifth century A.D. In trench n.12 a hoard of some 6,000 bronze coins was rescued from the mortar underlying the stone pavement of the courtyard. The coins already cleaned are dated from the end of the fourth to the the mid-fifth century A.D.

As the final report on our excavations around and inside the Synagogue, we will publish a volume in the future, where all the archaeological data will be discussed. In the meantime one of the four volumes on the town of Capharnaum appeared, where Fr. E. Testa treated the graffitoes of the House of St. Peter. The volume will be sent to this Department of Antiquities shortly.

The second season of excavations at Magdala did not take place in 1972 for lack of workmen.

Fr. Virgilio C. Corbo ofice
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