# Dr. CONRAD SCHICK

Missionary, Architect, Archaeologist, Model builder, City engineer



A popular summarise about his life made by Ulf Petersson

# A PORTRAIT OF CONRAD SCHICK

Schick was born in Bitz, Germany 1822, near the Swiss border, west of Bavaria. He was raised in a family with 11 children. As a small child he was sick for long periods and his parent didn't expect him to survive.

Schick was trained as an apprentice carpenter and taught to repair watches as a young man. At the age of 20 he went to the Chrischona Pilgermission College at Basel, Switzerland – a Protestant institution founded by C. F. Spittler which still exists.

He was exposed to and strongly influenced by the religious atmosphere in pietistic Württemberg. He studied in Basel for four years to become a trained craftsman and Strasbourg

Strasbourg

Necker

Ulm

BADENWÜRTTEMBERG

Bitz

Mulhouse

Basel

Zürich

SSWITZERLAND

Schick was born in Bitz, Germany and studied in Basel, Switzerland

missionary. At that school he was asked to make a model of the Tabernacle – the Jewish Temple. This model was his first; he would later make a number of others.

Schick was skilled in carving olive wood figures

Schick and his fellow Christian Palmer was 1846 sent to Jerusalem to build up a 'Brotherhood', there a group of men would live together and practice different skills. Several groups like this were formed. There trip from Basel to Jerusalem took them 7 weeks, through Italy and Lebanon. As they arrived in Jerusalem they soon moved into an apartment close to the Jaffa Gate with a good view over the city.

Schick got sick as soon

he arrived and had to stay in bed for about two months. Their apartment had no stove and the cold during the winter made them freeze constantly. Also they soon ran out of money as the price for buying food was very high. At Christmas time Schick felt stronger and at the very Christmas eave he walked the whole way to Bethlehem.

They decided to start some sort of business to earn their own money. Their first expe-

rience was that it was difficult to get into the market. The Arabs only made business with other Arabs, so did the Armenians with other Armenians and also the Jews and the Greeks. It was not that easy for a European to find a

market for his products or skills and the Germans were very few in Jerusalem.

Their Brother House was placed in-between Christ Church and the Holy Sepulchre. He mentions that the Arabs used to camp their camels outside there window. Schick also noticed that many children seemed to live on the streets



Schwartzwälder clock - Cockoo clock

without a family. At that same period he was asked by the German Consul to take some of these Arab boys in a vocational training. Some of the boys stayed later with Palmer and Schick in the Brother House.

At that time there arrived a number of 'Cuckoo clocks' which Schick put together and sold. This business helped him financially and he also got in touch with people of different background who lived in the city. Many were sold to Greek monasteries, others to Catholic, Turkish and Jewish people. He also earned some money from carving figures out of olive wood and work with wood turning.

In 1848 they had seven children in their vocational training at the same time as the children taught them Arabic. The number of boys increased the whole time – most of them living without a family. The finances were weak the whole time and Schick and Palmer didn't get enough support from home.

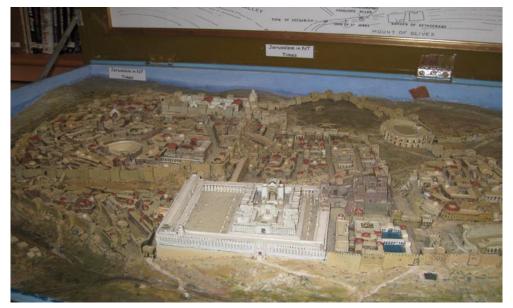
For that reason Schick abandon Spittler and began to work at the 'House of Industry' 1850, located at the Christ Church, to train Jewish boys in various trades like carpentry, turnery, shoemaking and different building methods. For this he got paid by the British Anglican church. After some year he became the director of this institution. He kept the contact with this organisation for the rest of his life.

Schick also specialized in the making of meticulous models of various aspects of Jerusalem's past and present. On directives from the Turkish authorities he made models of both the Church of the Holy Sepulchre complex, and the Temple Mount. His models were shown in Jerusalem but also sold to Russia, England and Germany.



This model shows Jerusalem at the time of Jesus. It is build into a suitcase. It arrived 2008 to Christ Church, Jerusalem from London.

As he was good at making models and had a view for topography many of the European archaeologists that came to Jerusalem asked Schick to join them. By the time he then developed a personal interest in archaeology and even a great knowledge.



Schick soon learned to speak Arabic and later Hebrew. He also learned that much English that he could write his reports to the British Palestina Exploration Found - whough they complained about his German sounding English.

Schick made his models with a topograpich perspective.

## CITY ENGINEER

Schick later became the city engineer of Jerusalem. That job gave him the opportunity to develop the city in different ways. He made the drawings for a number of houses and areas, for example the Mea Shearim – the settlement for Orthodox Jews from East Europe and the Bukharan Quarter mainly for Jews from Bukharan, Samarkand and Tashkent.

As an architect he planned the quarter known as Mea Shearim. The first part was completed 1881. The name "Mea Sheraim" is derived from a verse in Genesis 26:12 that says "Isaac sowed in that land and in that year he



Orthodox boys in Mea Shearim

reaped a hundredfold (Mea Shearim), God had blessed him". Literally it means 100 gates. From the beginning the area had 100 appartments. Schick - a Christian was the architect, a Jewish friend was resposible for finances and an Arabic contractor from Bethlehem build the area.

From the beginning it was build like a "Gettho" from East Europe with gates that closed every evening. The gates are taken away but

you can still se the signs that ask you to behave and dress properly as you enter the area. Soon it was to smal and new buildings were added.



Mea Shearim - the recidence of Ultra-Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem



Sign in Mea Shearim asking women visiting the area to dress with respect

## Some projects that Schick got involved into:

The leper's hospital at Agron Street (1860s)

Sanatorium of English hospital Prophets Street (1863)

Thalita Kumi Orphange (1868), the upper front still stands at King George Street

Mea Shearim (1876)

Bukharian Quarter (1880s)

The Bathei Mahse neighbourhood in the Jewish quarter of the Old city

Beit Tabor 1882

The Hansen Government Hospital for Lepers in Talbeih neighbourhood (1887)

The paving of Hebron Road

Ethiopian embassy at Ha-neviim

The breaching of the walls of the Old City and construction of New Gate.

New design on the Jaffa Gate.

Maps of Jerusalem.

Participating in the Jerusalem Water Relief Society.

Actually it was the King Karl I of Württemberg that gave Conrad Schick his title City Engineer, or actually "the Royal City engineer of Württemberg". This explains how much the Germans at that time influenced upon the city.

Together with some British scientist he also formed the Jerusalem Water Relief Society, because of the difficult water situation in the city. Everybody who built a house had to make his own basin to save water for the summer period.





Some of the buildings Schick were architect to.

The Ethiopian Embassy on HaNeviim with some of Schicks typical detail as the corners of the roof.

The Talita Kumi Orphanage on King George Street. The building was taken down some years ago, but the upper part of the facade is saved close to the street.

The Ethiopian Church, one of the most beautiful churches in the city situated just next door to his own property.



# RAILWAY JAFFA - JERUSALEM

Shick also made planning's for a railway between Jaffa and Jerusalem. Together with the German railroad engineer Zimpel he made plans for a deep harbour in Jaffa and a railway that connected it with Jerusalem. Schick published a booklet, where he detailed his own proposal for the railway, which called for a line through Ramallah and Beit Horon. This project was also followed by a map of the area between Jaffa and Jerusalem.

The Ottoman authorities did not choose Schick's plan but the one made by Moshe Montefiore. The railway connected the cities 1892.



The railway that connected Jerusalem with Jaffa was finnished 1892. Schicks plan was not chosen



Jerusalem old railway station close to Hebron road, south of King David - the building still exist, but the rails are taken away

## MAPS OF JERUSALEM

The map of Jerusalem drawn by Sir Charles William Wilson in 1864 (who directed the 1864-66 survey of Jerusalem) shows only barren hills and a few dirt trails leading to the city within the walls. The only buildings outside the walls are Mishkenot Sha'ananim, the Montefiore Windmill, the Russian Compound and the Monastery of the Cross. But by the beginning of World War I, many neighborhoods had been established, mainly in the area of Mea Shearim along Jaffa Road.

Many of the developers of those years were Jews returning to the land of their fathers; but others also came to build - Germans, Frenchmen, Englishmen, Russians, Italians, Turks, Ethiopians, Armenians and Greeks - Muslims and Christians - all contributed to the urban fabric of Jerusalem.

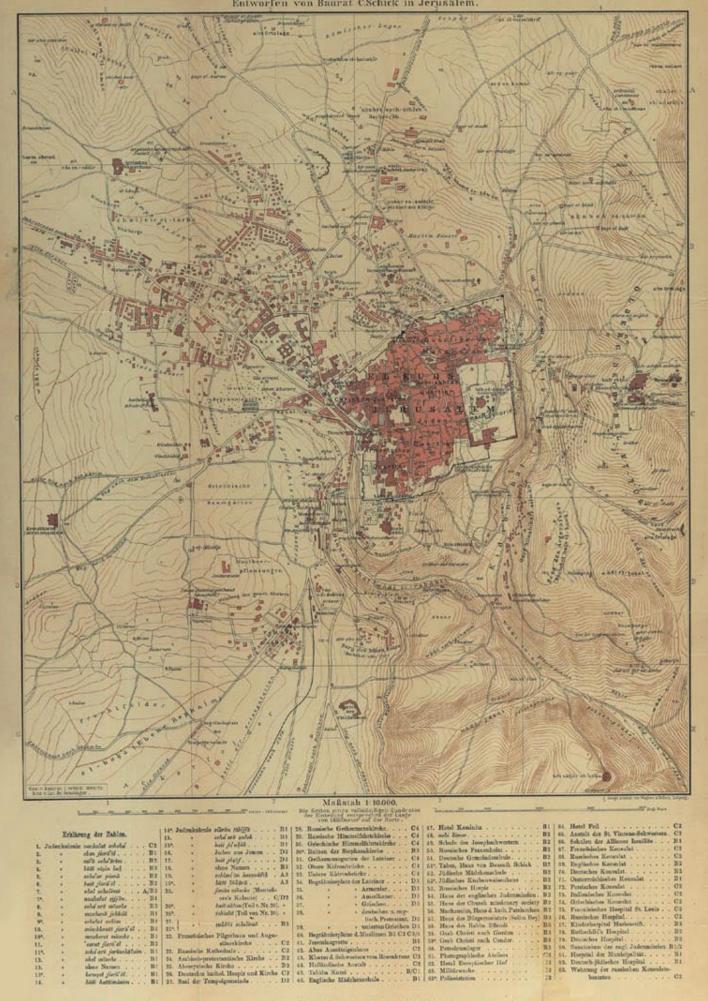
"Thus the new Jerusalem grows by accessions from every part of the globe," Edwin Sherman Wallace, United States consul in Jerusalem wrote in 1898. "On the streets all sorts and conditions of Jews and Gentiles meet and pass one another; they may be strangers to each other and ignorant of the part they are playing, but I cannot resist the belief that each is doing his part in God's plan for the rebuilding of the city and its enlargement far beyond the borders it has occupied in the past."

Schick made a number of maps himself, he also participaded with support as cartographic teams from other countries arrived.

Next page

1894 Schick published a map of Jerusalem which was the first to iclude all of the extensive new city

## NÄHERE UMGEBUNG VON JERUSALEM. Entworfen von Baurat C.Schick in Jerusalem.



## SCHICK AS ARCHAEOLOGIST

As Schick was skilled in topography he was asked to help the military explorers that came to Jerusalem. He soon developed a personal interest in archaeology and even made a number of discoveries himself, though he was an autodidact.

As Schick had decided to stay in Jerusalem, was married and more established he used more of his time for archaeology. He started to write articles about archaeology for the popular magazine "Das Ausland" 1864, a German periodical. From 1871 he was regularly writing for the British PEF – the Palestinian Exploration Found.

He was often asked to accompany guests visiting the city, kings, archaeologists and officers. For excample he was the escort for the Prince of Wales on his visit to Palestine, but also as the German Emperor Wilhelm I visited Jerusalem 1898.

As he was skilled in topography and making drawings he assisted many of the well-known archaeologists, like Charles Wilson and Claude Conder. Soon he became the one person most informed about Jerusalem both in those days and historically.

Charles Wilson was a British cartographer and officer who travelled all over in the Middle East. Wilson asked Schick to watch and measure all excavations performed in the city, not only collect archaeological material. Wilson also taught Schick about topography. As Wilson left Schick continued himself, he became the local agent.

Claude Conder was another British military engineer that travelled in Palestine, his works mostly concerned places outside of Jerusalem. Schick became a personal friend with these archaeologists. It seems like everybody  except the great archaeologist Charles Warren asked Schick for help.

The Dome of the Rock undertook a great renovation 1873, Schick then served as adviser to the local architects during the project. Schick's main concern was that the knowledge of the topography of Jerusalem was the key to understand the development of the city. Later he also was responsible for a number of different archaeological projects. Schick made himself a number of findings and he himself was the leader of some various projects.



The family thomb of Herod just east of King David hotel was discovered by Schick

### Among his articles and findings we note:

The findings of Qubebe identified with Emmaus.

**Explorations beyond the Temple Mount.** 

Excavation and first renovation of the Muristan grounds, that later led to the building of the German Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

The re-finding of the Siloam tunnel and the inscription of that.

The re-identification of the biblical Bethpage and Bethany, Bethel and Gilgal.

Expedition to Moab on the east side of Dead Sea with a report.

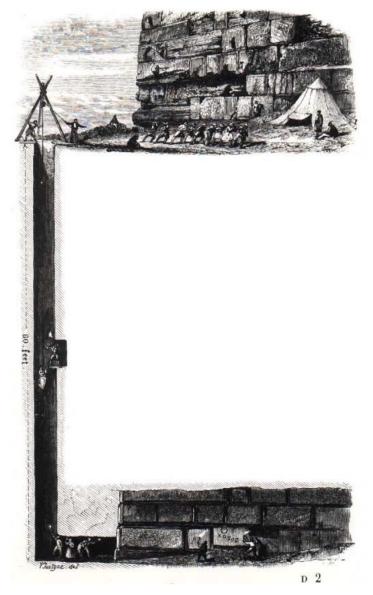
His estimation of the population in Jerusalem of different times.

His models and description of the 'Second Wall'.

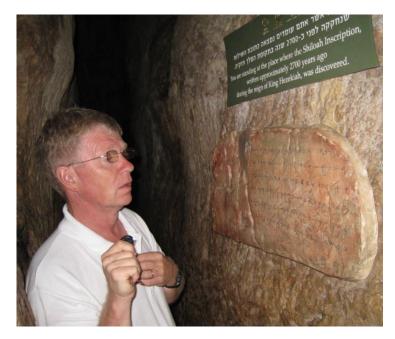
Exploration of the Tunners's Gate which might have been the 'Lazarus Gate'

He is said to be the man that planned for opening of the New Gate 1898.

He participated in the finding of the 'Garden Tomb', or 'Gordon's Golgata'



British archaeologists exploring the place of the ancient Temple 1867 by digging a tunnel deep down. Ilustration from PEF magazine.



Ulf at the inscription in Hezekiah's tunnel

He wrote more than one hundred articles about different archaeological findings and projects in Palestine. Many of the articles aimed at proving the accuracy of the Bible.



Schick recorded a number of tombs that otherwise would have been completely forgotten. They give a picture

of the burial practices of varios periods of Jerusalem history.

Schick published his knowledge about the ancient Temples in his book" Die Stiftshütte, der Tempel in Jerusalem und der Tempelplatz der Jetztzeit"

### Siloam inscription

The tunnel was cut 2700 years ago, while Hezekiah was the king. The work was carried out by two teams of diggers working from each side. As they meet they differed only some 10 cm. The tunnel goes like a big S and lets the water into the city from the Gihon spring outside the walls.

The Siloam inscription was placed in the middle of Hezekiah's tunnel. The original text is now at the Istanbul Archaeological Museum.

The story goes like this: Two boys were playing in the pool of Siloam. They decided to explore the tunnel from both ways. One waded into the rock tunnel from the pool, soon he accidentally fell into the water and his candle blew out. As he kept on walking in the darkness with his fingertips on the wall he just a sudden realised the inscription. The boys informed there teacher - Conrad Schick at the House of Industry. Some days later the inscription was clandestinely cut out of the wall and broken. The stone was found and recovered, a copy was made and the original stone taken to Istanbul.

According to Bertha Spafford Wester this boy was Jacob Eliahu, who later was adopted by the Spaffords at American Colony and became a member of the family.

The translation of the text: ... the tunnel was driven through. And this was the way in which it was cut through: While ... were still .... axes, each men toward his fellow, and while there were still three cubits to be cut through, there was heard the voice of a man calling to his fellow, for there was an overlap in the rock from the right and from the left. And then the tunnel was driven through, the quarrymen heawed the rock, each man toward his fellow, axe against axe; and the water flowed from the spring toward the reservoir for 1,200 cubits, and the height of the rock above the heads of the quarrymen was 100 cubits.

# MODELS HIS MINOR MASTERPIECES

Schick became increasingly interested and involved in constructing models and reliefmaps mostly of Jerusalem and the Holy places. As he knows Jerusalem better then any other of his contemporaries and because of his skill in topography he was the right person to make these models. All together he made 16 models.

He made two different sort of models 1862, one of the Church of Holy Sepulchre and its surroundings, the other one of the Jewish Temple.

The first model was build by order of the Ottoman governor of Jerusalem, Sureyya Pasha, who needed it to clarify disputes over ownership of property in that area, which would assist him with discussing the issue with his superior in Constantinople. The background to the issue was the Crimean War (1853-56) which had been sparked off by disputes of the ownership of the Holy Places in the Holy Land.

The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate then ordered a copy, so did the King of Württemberg in 1862. The Ottomans later ordered two more models, both contemporary and

not mainly historically. There purpose was to exhibit them at the International Exhibition of Vienna 1873. He also made one model for use in Liverpool.

Some models became parts of a travelling exhibition, known as the Palestine Exhibition. It is also mentioned that the Governor of Jerusalem ordered a model as a gift for Queen Victoria. It is said to have been copies in Stuttgart, Moscow and Constantinople.

In some of his models he made the buildings movable and could then be used to describe the process of building during time. This was the case with the model of the Haram-als-Sharif, the Temple Mount. It was made in the





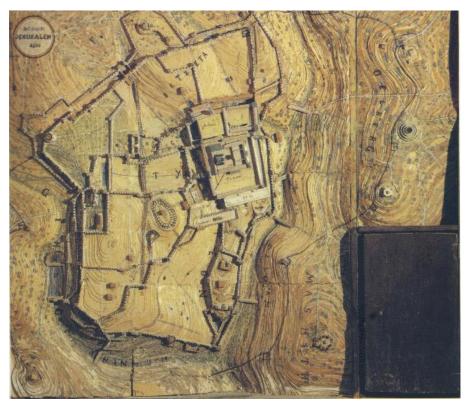
800 gold pieces Napoleon and the income for that made it possible for him to build his own house on the Street of the Prophets (Ha-ne-viim 58).

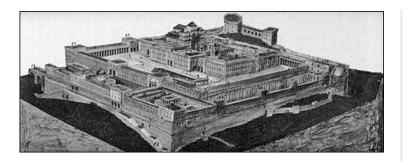
His models still maintain there value in two respects: as work of art, and also as a depiction of the contemporary situation.

scale of 1:200, out of wood and painted with oil. The entire model was actually divided into four different parts.

- 1. The first of the Mount itself, in steps of land contours, cisterns etc.
- 2. The second showed Salomon's buildings compound of a number of individual buildings, placed on this first base. Removing the buildings showed the destruction of the Temple by the Caldeans.
- 3. The third pieces were about the Zerubabel and Herod Temple and showed how the Temple might have looked these days.
- 4. Finally the forth part described the buildings of the present day.

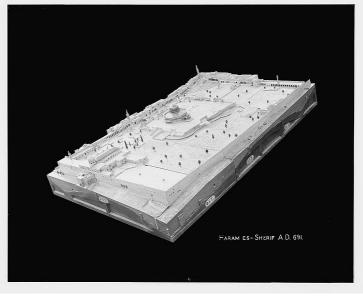
This model took Schick about 8 years to construct until 1885 and was finished in a room of his house and soon became a great attraction for both pilgrims and scholars - maybe here at Bet Tabor!





This was his miniature masterpiece and here he summarized most of his knowledge about Jerusalem. He later made some copies of this model which were sold. 1896 he also published his book "Die Stiftshütte, der Tempel in Jerusalem und der Tempelplatz der Jetztzeit".

Many of these models still exist, one in the Basel Mission house, two at Christ Church and two at Schmid's Girl School both in Jerusalem. One model was sold for





# **BET TABOR** HIS GREAT MASTERPIECE

His own house was build 1882 and he called it 'Bet Tabor – the House of Tabor', after the biblical mountain in the country. Schick connected the name with Psalm 89:12: "The north and the south, Thou has created them; Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in Thy name." It seams like he realized all his dreams in this house mixing ideas from both European styles and



Plaquet above the entrancedoor

Oriental traditions. It took him seven years to finish and it



The Chapel for the Swedish parish and STI

became immediately a tourist attraction as he also finished his latest and biggest model of the Haramals-Sharif.

Bet Tabor is build within a walled courtyard with a wonderful garden. The area contains a number of buildings, put together in a 'Jerusalem man-



Corner of the roof

Theological Institute - STI. The famous Swedish author and Nobel price winner Selma Lagerlöf stayed in Jerusalem for a period as she wrote her

book 'Jerusalem'. She wrote: "The Buildings of a Jerusalem house is thrown out like squares around a yard with a wall around"

Schick also build a private chapel connected with his house. which now serves as church for the Swedish parish. The chapel has a nice façade towards the street, decorated outside with palm leaves carved together



ner', forming a block. Everyt-

hing is build with the common

'lime stone of Jerusalem'. All

wood and metal details are

painted with the common green

olivwood colour of Jerusalem.

Today the stables and yard hou-

ses are turned into nice rooms

used for guest at the Swedish

Window with olivgreen color and arch above

with the Greek letters Alpha and Omega, symbolizing the beginning and the end.

The front door is build into a port house with place for a guard to sit above, with a small hole where to pour hot liquid upon unwanted guests. Over the door is a plate with the name of the house and the year it was finished. The windows on the front side of the house are build with big

blocks of sand stone above, upon which is placed a triangle of lime stones and above that an arch suspending the wall.

Notice also the nice combination with lime and sand stones around all doors and



stones around Shield with insigns of C S and F D and A  $\Omega$ 

windows and at the corners. To look the corners on the roof he put a heavy stone symbolizing the corners of the Tabernacle altar – the place for reconciliation between

ا آلِدِدهِ شارع منڤيئيم HA-NEVIIM st.

Ha-neviim means Prophets

God and man. This stone is like a signature for Schick, he also put it upon the Ethiopian Embassy building further down on Ha-Neviim. On top of the roof he put a Crone stone

The rooms inside the main building are laid

out with a great number of arches suspending the roofs



Indoors with arches in many directions

- like most other houses in Jerusalem build this time. There are almost no flat roofs on the first level. One can count more than 50 different arches



at that floor! Inside the entrance door he used red lime stones on the floor placed in a geometrical system.



Crone on top of the roof

main entrance he showed some of his archaeological collection. The stone placed in the wall is printed with old Samarian letters there is written the words from 5 Mos 4: 29-31.

Schick had

Inside

the

a great number of books and built therefore a li-

brary, that today is used as the STI library. Room nr 1 – 4 was originally build as stable to put the horses into,

now changed into guestrooms, since most guest arrives with a sherutt. The two store building in the backyard is a later addition.



Obelisk at the corner of the Chapel

## THREE STONES

Schick obviously had a great interest of archaeology. He also seamed to be a collector of ancient findings. He put three interesting stones into his own walls.

Above the library door is a copy of the "Gezer Boundary stone". Gezer was an ancient village some km east of Jaffa. The stone has probably marked the boundary of the village. There are a number of identical stones found. The text is written in Hebrew but at



the end is some Greek letters, probably telling the name of the land owner. This stone is broken, but it might be the name ALKIOS. As the text is written in two languages it might be from the Greek period. Alkios might be the same person that King Herod gave his sister Salome to marry.

For some reason the stone is put upside down, maybe Schick made a mistake or he wanted to avoid the Ottomans interest in archaeological findings. The original piece is in the Istanbul Archaeological Museum.

The third stone placed in a wall of present day TV-room, the text is written in Greek. It is know as the Balustrade inscription of Herod's temple.

The translation is: "No stranger is to enter within the balustrade round the Temple and enclosure. Whoever is caught will be responsible to himself for his death which will ensue".

But this stone is a forgery, someone made a copy with some mistakes. Whether Schick know this was a false stone or not is unclear. Inside the entrance door of Bet Tabor is piece of marble stone put into the wall. The text is written in the Samaritan language. A group of Samaritans moved to Gaza about the time of Alexander the Great (4th century B.C.)

The text is from Deuteronomy 4:29-31 and says: "But if you seek the Lord your God from there, you will find him, if, indeed, you seek him with all your heart and soul. In your distress when all these things happen to you in the

latter days, if you return to the Lord your God and obey him, for he is a merciful God, he will not let you down or destroy you,". It is written in 19 lines and can be read from right to left. The stone has probably been a part of texts written on a wall in a synagogue. It is believed that Schick bought this stone from an archaeological project in

Gaza - as part of his private collection.





## **SCHICKS MEMORY**

"He was beloved and desirable to all the inhabitants of his city, without distinction of religion, both Jews, Muslims and Christians"

There is a street named after him leading to the Garden Tomb just outside the Damascus Gate.

As he had spent 50 year in Jerusalem, 1896, the city honoured him for his many contributions then in response:



Note that his name is spelled wrong on the sign to the city. He wrote to the Garden tomb - Gordons Golgata

"My doing was nothing, except to make faults. It is only the Lord who has done - and enabled me to do - anything. His name be praised!"

Some years before his death he got an honorary Doctor's degree at Thübingen University in Germany. After that the autodidact was titled Dr. Conrad Schick. As the German Emperor Wilhelm II visited Jerusalem 1898, Schick was given the award Order of the Crown II.



Ben Yehuda, a neigbour of Schick, created the modern Hebrew language

When Conrad Schick inhabitants of his city, ligion, both Jews, Mus-

died in Jerusalem 1901, at the age of 79 it was written in the Hebrew press "He was beloved and desirable to all the without distinction of relims and Christians".

## Schick Library # 1

At Christ Church just inside Jaffa Gate there is a library filled with old and new books about Jerusalem, many of them with a historic perspective. Since Conrad Schick was was a member of this church, the library is named "The Conrad Schick



Library". This library also holds 3 of his models and a small exhibition about him.

As Bet Tabor celebrated its 50th anniversary 1988 the well known mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek celebrated the House and Dr Conrad Schick. - Among other things he said: "He know how to walk the golden middle way in order to keep good relations with both Christians, Jews and Muslims". And about Bet Tabor he said: "Many of his buildings had the highest fullness, for example his house Bet Tabor, his own mansion in the centre of the city, one of the most beautiful houses, if not the most beautiful".

The year 1900 someone described him as an "veteran explorer and the greatest living authority on underground Jerusalem".

Charles Wilson said about Schick: "He is a simple, earnest, Bible-loving Christian, whose great desire is to live a true, helpful Christian life".



Schick memorial at Mount Zion

He was buried at the Protestant Cemetery in the slope of Mt Zion together with his wife and two of there small children.

Schick remained active until his last day, he died December 23, 1901, just short before his 80th birthday. His wife died twelve days after him at the age of 76.

Conrad Schick married Amalie Schmid 1852. The got a doughter a year later, but both the wife and the doughter died at the delivery.

Schick then married with Frederike Dubler 1854. They got five children togheter, two of them died as young.

## Schick Library # 2



On the Mount of Olives is a second Schick library. The German Protestant Institut of

Archaeology has a library just behind Augusta Victoria hospital. The library is called "The Conrad Schick Library" because they have most of his books, specially the archaeologic books. The library holds about 13.000 volumes.

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#### **Pictures**

Most pictures taken by Ulf Petersson

### **Facts**

LJS

The London Society for Promoting Christianity Amongst the Jews (the London Jews Society – LJS) was established in Jerusalem 1843 at Christ Church. Schick started to teach 1850. During his first seven years he served as coordinator of the crafts in the 'House of Industry'. In 1857 he was nominated director of the school, a position he held until 1880. During that time he also was 'the house architect and builder'.

This paper has been written with Adobe Indesign CS3 by Ulf Petersson, volonteer at STI, Bet Tabor, the summer of 2008 uffepeter@gmail.com

with GREAT THANKS to the Staff of STI.

"I immediately fell in love with the house and wanted to know more.

Behind the house I found this interesting man Conrad Schick."

I'm thankful for helps, commentaries and furter information and please excuse me for my "Schick-English".