

# World's Fair Replica of Solomon's Temple

## GREAT EDIFICE WILL RISE SOON

Dream of Dr. John Wesley Kelchner to Take Form at Century of Progress

Actual construction is to begin soon on what promises to be the outstanding attraction of the 1933 Chicago World's Fair—an exact replica of King Solomon's temple—which will entail the expenditure of half a million dollars.

This magnificent structure is to be evolved from plans by Dr. Harvey Wiley Corbett of New York City, head of the Century of Progress Exposition architectural commission.

Dr. John Wesley Kelchner of New York, world renowned archaeologist, who has spent 35 years in study and research into the history and design of this stupendous structure of antiquity, has provided the necessary data to insure absolute accuracy in minutest detail.

The proposed restoration of the greatest building of biblical times has been allotted a site, 400x800, just south of and adjacent to the Travel and Transport building. Actual construction is expected to begin this summer and the building will require six months to complete.

### Studios at Brevoort

General offices and studios are at the Brevoort hotel on Madison street where there are to be seen paintings, sketches, designs and models on which Dr. Kelchner is said to have spent half a million dollars in the last 35 years. Many of the exquisite drawings are the work of Hugh Ferriss, generally recognized as the outstanding architectural renderer in the United States.

The temple replica will be of steel frame construction with exterior walls of wall board similar to other World's Fair buildings. Gorgeous colors—purple, blue, gold, scarlet, and silver, rainbow effects—will be used inside and out. The base of the temple will be gold and black. The structure will be floodlighted.

### World-wide Search

Though rich in legend and romance, no determined effort was made to restore Solomon's temple until Dr. Kelchner began 30 years ago to make real his vision of the scriptural description. He spent a huge personal fortune—acquired as a manufacturer—in a world-wide search for date and period decorative technique from which to render accurately the general ornamental scheme revealed by biblical history. Other noted archaeologists collaborated with Dr. Kelchner in this great project.

Nine years ago Dr. Kelchner had assembled all the necessary data to erect an exact replica of the temple which had vanished 3,000 years ago.

### Calls in Experts

The next step in Dr. Kelchner's dream was to vision the entire project in sketches, paintings, work drawings and plans. In this herculean task he enlisted the aid of a large staff of expert draftsmen and capa-

## Interior Views of Solomon's Temple



Interior of King Solomon's Palace



Banquet Scene Porch of Pillars



The House of Pharaoh's Daughter—Solomon's Wife and Queen

ble artists laying before them the models, plans and designs of this, his life work. As Moses after receiving the Designs of the Tabernacle of Israel called to his aid the cunning master mechanic, Bezaleel, who was filled with the spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, and as Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre, filled with wisdom and understanding, and a cunning skilled workman, so did John Wesley Kelchner labor with these experts and together they dropped out of the Twentieth Century, back into the years 1011-1004 Before Christ. The difference was only thirty centuries between; the creative objective the same and the results identical.

### What Dr. Corbet Says

Dr. Harvey W. Corbett has been interested in the Kelchner project for nearly 20 years. Concerning the proposed temple replica, he says:

"It is known to every reader of the Bible and student of King Solomon's days that an amazingly exact description of the temple and its associated structures has been carried down from the mists of antiquity by the scriptures. Lineal measurements, materials employed, and ornamental detail are so graphically presented that restoration of the temple at any time within a score of centuries past, awaited only the

coming of a man with the vision to recognize its historic value and the imagination to undertake the task."

### House Many Features

The interior of the temple will, in addition to the various religious courts and rooms, contain many exhibits, bazaars, shops, and industries of the far east, as well as numerous other attractions.

This unique and fascinating feature of the World's Fair is expected to appeal to all religious, educational interests and to fraternal groups. Every denomination will be permitted to have a room in the structure for its world's fair headquarters.

The executive committee for the temple is headed by Charles S. Peterson, vice-president of A. Century of Progress Exposition, Dr. Louis L. Mann, rabbi of Chicago Sinai Congregation, and Thomas J. Houston, imperial potentate of the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, are vice-chairmen. Other important names are to be added to the roster of this committee, it is announced.

The operating staff includes: Dr. Harvey Wiley Corbett, architect; Emmett W. MacConnell, director of works; A. J. Hilt, publications, and Myron H. Post, publicity.

Dr. Mann comments on the temple project as follows:

Called "Superb Triumph"  
"I have studied very carefully the

plans and drawings of King Solomon's temple. Dr. John Wesley Kelchner, who has devoted many years of research toward reconstructing this sublime edifice which has played so great a role in the religious history of mankind, has achieved a superb triumph. Historically, it is the most accurate attempt toward reconstruction that has ever been made. I feel certain that the structure will prove to be the outstanding attraction in the Century of Progress World's Fair."

### Fair's "Greatest Attraction"

Mr. Houston has said: "After having made a thorough and exhaustive examination of the plans, specifications, designs and pictures for the restoration of King Solomon's temple by Dr. John Wesley Kelchner, I am convinced that it will be the greatest attraction for A. Century of Progress, International Exposition, to be held in Chicago next year. Every Fair in the past has had some outstanding feature, but none can be compared to the grandeur of King Solomon's Temple as outlined in this plan of restoration. There is no doubt in my mind that it will be universally accepted, and the means of bringing hundreds of thousands of people to Chicago in addition to the throngs which will visit the city during the Fair year. The subject is one that the entire world is interested in."

Jacob Vanderpool, Civil war veteran, of Waukegan, died last week in the Great Lakes hospital, where he was entered as a patient on July 20, 1932.

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