

# NUBIAN TREASURE ARRIVING FOR FAIR

## Sudanese to Show Ancient Madonna and Child

By McCANDLISH PHILLIPS

An ancient treasure of the Sudan—a Madonna and Child painted on sandbrick almost 1,200 years ago—is being flown to New York for the World's Fair.

The delicate fresco, its colors kept vivid by burial in sand, was found last summer in the heart of ancient Nubia. It is a relic of a time before its inhabitants had turned from Christianity to Islam.

Archeologists unearthed it last summer on the wall of a Coptic church at Faras, near Wadi Halfa, in the northern Sudan. It is six feet square and weighs 1,000 pounds.

The fresco is expected to arrive this morning from Switzerland, where the restorative work was done. It will be exhibited in Sudan's pavilion at the fair.

The archeologists who found it were working to save the country's antiquities from flooding by waters piled up by the Aswan Dam in the United Arab Republic. They worked under the supervision of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The Nubians of the Sudan turned to Christianity in the middle of the sixth century, about the time Justinian ruled in Rome. The Monophysites, or Coptic Church, became dominant early in the next century.

### Abandoned in 12th Century

The church at Faras was abandoned in the 12th century. Inscribed in Greek on the top of the fresco are the words: "Mary, Mother of Christ, Savior of the Universe."

It will be displayed in Sudan's Hall of Antiquities, a separate two-story structure in Islamic architecture. The fresco is expected to be placed in the Sudan National Museum after the fair closes.

The fair structures at Flushing Meadow ran from chaos to completion yesterday. Some pavilions swarmed with invited guests for preview showings. The fair opens on Wednesday.

A few of the buildings were still partly wood frames and visitors could look right through them.

While workmen outside turned mud into fully landscaped borders, many concentrated on interior exhibits and appointments. Their main structures looked ready.

At 4:20 P.M. the skies lowered, blackened and briefly cast a morbid pall over the entire scene, just before losing another unwelcome heavy shower.

### Where's the Party?

Ten minutes later a woman of about 50, in a Rolls Royce, pulled up at the Ford pavilion and her uniformed chauffeur got out with an umbrella to guide her inside for a party that, unfortunately, had occurred 24 hours earlier.

The great fountain and lagoon surrounding the Unisphere had not been filled until yesterday and the rain came just in time to help the spigots do the job.

The Alaska Village, a concession behind the Alaska pavilion, will open in time — ahead of the state's exhibit. The completion of the state's pavilion was thrown behind scheduled by the earthquake, which delayed shipments from Alaska.

If the Avenue of the Americas at the fair bears any resemblance to its Manhattan counterpart, it will be because its light poles wear borrowed coats of arms.

Poles between 52d and 59th Street in Manhattan have been stripped of porcelain enamel shields identifying 22 nations of the Western Hemisphere, and the three-foot discs went up on the poles here today. Each is insured for \$1,000.

### Malden Run for Train

They were the gift of the Avenue of the Americas Association to the city in 1960. They had to come down anyway to clear the pass for the IND subway extension there.

Shortly after noon Richard Bleser, with a fat cigar jutting out of the left corner of his mouth, opened the throttle wide to make the first loop around the Long Island Rail Road's 900-foot-long miniature commuter line, hard by the railroad's Port Washington branch tracks. The large and little lines are separated by 10 feet and a wire fence.

The smaller version will carry passengers at 25 cents each. It is a 16-inch narrow gauge line built to one-fifth of scale.

It has one disadvantage: There is no miniature change at Jamaica.