

The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

Paul J. Ray, Jr.	Editor
Constance E. Gane	Assoc. Editor
Randall W. Younker	Assoc. Editor
Robert D. Bates	Asst. Editor
Kevin Burton	Asst. Editor

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Hisban 2012

Andrews University conducted a short season of excavations from May 14-31, 2012 at Tall Hisban, Jordan. The project was directed by Øystein S. LaBianca and Maria Elena Ronza, with Jeffrey P. Hudon serving as field archaeologist.

Tall Hisban has been excavated in two phases. During phase one the Heshbon Expedition conducted five field seasons of excavation between 1968 and 1976, its main discoveries including an Iron Age I-II reservoir; an Iron Age II/Persian period fortification wall along the western slope; the walls and towers of a Hellenistic period citadel; a Roman period monumental building; two Byzantine period churches, below and on top of the acropolis, and a Mamluk period bathhouse.

A second phase of excavations and research commenced in 1996, focusing especially on the rich Islamic period remains on the summit and elsewhere on the site. The new excavations have uncovered the entrance to a Mamluk-period garrison with storerooms and an audience hall. A major goal of this second phase involves cleaning, restoration, and presentation of the site. With ten additional seasons of fieldwork now completed, the team has succeeded in preserving one of Jordan's most important Islamic sites.

One of the objectives of the 2012 season was to begin to expose a section of the eastern face of the citadel in order to provide another opportunity, if possible, for dating the structure. The exposed SE and NE corner towers and the excavated areas nearby clearly indicate that the citadel wall ran just east of the apse of the Byzantine-period acropolis church. Area R was opened here

(cont'd on p. 2)



l-r: Shirley Grall, Sheryl Beikmann and Terje Stordalen excavating at Tall Hisban.

with two parallel squares (R5 and 6). They are located on a steep slope immediately east of a recently constructed tourist walkway through the site. The trail's placement is directly over the assumed course of the citadel wall.

Square R6 was the most productive of the two squares and revealed a N-S line of stones with two faces that gave an indication of a wall (Wall 3), but the excavations did not reach deep enough to uncover additional courses. The wall also extended into Square R5. Wall 2 consisted of a flimsy line of stones, one or two courses in depth, that ran along the surface in a N-S line, close to the western edge of the square. It may have served as a sheepfold or pen. Wall 7 abutted the north end of Wall 3, running roughly SW for about 1.5 m before turning NW, and disappearing into the balk. No floors or surfaces could be related to this wall. A roughly rectangular stone with a rectangular depression was found upside down at the corner, possibly relating to a door or gate. The associated ceramics date from the Hellenistic to Mamluk periods. The objects found here include a bangle made of Roman glass, a Roman-period coin, roof tiles and pieces of painted plaster from the nearby church, as well as numerous architectural fragments. Much more excavation is needed in this area before anything can be said about the eastern edge of the citadel.

One of the biggest challenges that has confounded efforts to present the story of Tall Hisban is how to account for the large, oversized, Iron Age I-II water reservoir, just below the summit. Although no excavation was undertaken this season in the reservoir area, a great deal of time was spent by the staff inspecting the exposed bedrock of the structure. A question which Hudon had posed before the beginning of the season, based on his earlier excavation experience in Israel, is if perhaps this reservoir could have been part of a royal garden. Having worked at the site of Ramat Rahel, which is believed to have been a royal garden sponsored by King Uzziah or Hezekiah, Hudon suggested that the team look into



Paul Gregor.

the possibility that the reservoir might have been part of some sort of royal palace garden. LaBianca agreed and persuaded Stan Beikmann, Assistant Professor for Landscape Design in the Department of Agriculture, at Andrews University, along with one of his students, Kristin Wallace, to undertake a comparative study of royal gardens in the ancient world to see what parallels might be found to help with interpreting the Hisban reservoir. After a season of research we now posit this possibility as the most plausible interpretation for the 10th-9th BC reservoir at the site.

In addition to the excavation, a new circulation path starting at the entrance, and moving along the western, lower terrace, gently scaling the side of the mound, and then going throughout the remainder of the site, was developed for tourist purposes. To enhance this experience, 17 of the older bilingual (Arabic and English) signs were repaired or replaced, and 18 new ones were added. Plans are also being developed for a new welcome center at the entrance to site. (Øystein S. LaBianca, Maria Elena Ronza, and Jeffrey P. Hudon)

Gregor in Croatia

From June 18-20, 2012 Paul Z. Gregor attended an international academic conference focusing on research on Cultures of the Ancient Middle East, where he presented a lecture on "Water Systems in the Middle East," with emphasis on the latest discoveries from the Tall Jalul excavations. Dr Gregor was the only presenter from the United States, the others coming from various countries in eastern Europe, including Serbia, Slovenia, and Macedonia, with a large number from Croatia itself.

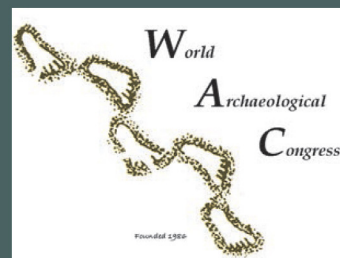
The lectures were conducted at the Archaeological Museum of Zagreb, Croatia. Most of the studies dealt with Roman Archaeology and material culture which is well represented in Eastern Europe. The paper on the Tall Jalul water system was well received and there was a healthy discussion during the question-and-answer period. Most of the audience had never participated in an excavation on the scale of Tall Jalul, in Jordan. (Paul Z. Gregor)



WAC-7

Dead Sea, Jordan
14-18 January 2013

Seventh World Archaeological Congress



WELCOME!

On behalf of the WAC-7 Organising Committee it is a great pleasure to invite colleagues from across the globe to Jordan for what we hope will be a truly memorable congress. We are busy planning an engaging thematic programme complemented by social events and excursions to sites of Jordan's outstanding heritage. Your contribution to WAC-7 will help make it successful. Welcome to you all!

-Talal Akasheh, Academic Secretary



WHAT IS WAC?

The World Archaeological Congress (WAC) is the only representative world-wide organisation of practicing archaeologists. Founded in 1986, WAC encourages open dialogue among all people concerned about the past, and recognition of the need to make archaeological studies relevant to wider communities. For more information, visit:

www.worldarchaeologicalcongress.org

WAC-7 DETAILS

WAC-7 will be held at the beautiful King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Centre on the Dead Sea.

Presentations: WAC-7 presentations may take many forms: working sessions, position papers, plenary panels, forums, demonstrations and workshops. The programme will be organised into large themes, each with several sessions on the same overall issue. Propose a theme, session, or presentation today!

Activities: WAC-7 will include optional excursions to Jordan heritage sites (such as Petra and the Dead Sea) and social events including a Welcome Reception and Congress Dinner.

Important Information: Registration for WAC-7 is open now! Be sure to register and submit a proposal early to take advantage of lower registration costs. For the most up-to-date WAC-7 information, including submissions and registration deadlines, visit:

www.worldarchaeologicalcongress.org



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RANDOM SURVEY

Greek Temple Found:

A sanctuary of the ancient Greek fertility goddess Demeter and her daughter Persephone has been discovered recently near the town of Sozopol, Bulgaria, on the Skamnii Cape, on the Black Sea. In ancient times, the town and its surrounding area were known as Apollonia Pontica. The temple, in which numerous statues, figurines, ceramics and other artifacts have been located, dates to the 4th or 5th century BC, and was found beneath a fortress wall and church that were part of a Byzantine imperial monastery.

Roman Mausoleum Found:

Archaeologists have found a Roman mausoleum in the ancient Roman seaside town of Puteolanum, near Naples, dating to the 2nd century AD. It was discovered under an illegal toxic waste dump. Stucco work and decorations were found on the walls of the intact tomb.

To discover more about archaeology, the Institute, and the Museum, contact us at:

VOX: 269-471-3273

FAX: 269-471-3619

E-mail: hornmuseum@andrews.edu

or visit our Web site at:

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New Found Monuments at Karnak:

A French-Egyptian team of archaeologists, working at the Temple of Karnak, in Luxor, Egypt, have recently discovered two sizeable monuments. The first is a wall that once enclosed a New Kingdom temple of Ptah, dating to Pharaoh Tuthmose III (1504-1450 BC) of the 18th Dynasty. The second is a gate, which dates to the reign of the 25th dynasty King Shabaka (712-698 BC), on which is a painting depicting the king making an offering to the god Amun-Re. The highly-decorated gate once closed off the jewelry hall of the king.

Ossuary Believed Authentic:

Although still challenged by some scholars, an ossuary recently confiscated from looters by the Israel Antiquities Authority has been authenticated by experts at the Department of Archaeology, Tel Aviv University. The inscription on the ossuary reads: Miriam daughter of Yeshua son of Caiaphas, priest of Ma'aziah from Beth 'Imri. Caiaphas, on the ossuary, is perhaps the famous high priest connected with the trial of Jesus.

Early Church Found:

A 4th-century AD church has recently been found in Antioch Pisidia, Turkey, a city visited by Paul on his first missionary journey (Acts 13:16-41). The church, converted from a pagan temple, represents one of the first communities of Gentile Christians.

NEWSLETTER



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