N E W S L E T T E R

The Institute of
ARCHAEOLOGY
Siegfried H. Horn Museum

Table of Contents

	Page
Jordan Conference	1
Jalul 2016	2
Random Survey	4

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

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Jordan Conference in Amman

The Thirteenth International Conference of the History and Archaeology of Jordan (ICHAJ), under the patronage of HRH Prince El Hassan Bin Talal, was held in Amman, Jordan from May 21-26, 2016. The venue for the conference was at the Princess Sumaya University of Technology, and was sponsored by the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (DAJ), Sustainable Cultural Heritage through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP), The Jordan Museum, Madaba Institute for Mosaic Art and Restoration (MIMAR), the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and Princess Sumaya University of Technology (PSUT).

The theme for the conference was Ethics in Archaeology. About 200 researchers from various parts of the world participated in the conference, focusing on excavation, restoration, survey and archaeological technology, as well as inscriptional analysis and other aspects of recent discoveries in Jordan. The keynote speakers were HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan, Dr. Mounir Bushnaki, and Dr. Gary Rollefson.

Papers presented by current and former personnel of the Madaba Plains Project and its predecessor, the Andrews University Heshbon Expedition, include: Understanding the Contours of Rural Life in the Middle and Late Islamic Period (Bethany Walker); Aqaba Castle, Origin, Development and Evolution of Khans in Jordan: An Archaeological Approach (Reem Al-Shqour); Results of the Excavation Project at the Islamic Village of Jalul (Basem Al Mahamid); Linking Iron I Sites on the Madaba Plains (P. M. Michèle Daviau with Stanley Klassen); Interpretation of Archaeological Sites through Their Name (Hanadi Al-Taher); Integrating Archaeological Research and Site Management Responsibilities at Busayra (Stephanie Brown and Benjamin Porter);

(cont'd on p. 2)

Paul Ray, Paul Z. Gregor, Constance Gane and Randall Younker at the ICHAJ Conference.

Conservation and Management—Three Historic Sites Completely Destroyed in as-Salt (Raouf Abujaber); Nabataean and Late Roman Domestic Life on Petra's North Ridge (S. Thomas Paker); Central Jordan Epigraphic Survey (David Graf); Towards a Conservation and Site Managements Strategy at Umm El-Jimal (Bert de Vries with Muaffaq Hazza); A Series of Iron Age Domestic Buildings in Field C at Tall Jalul (Paul Ray); Late Neolithic Variability in Lithic Technology and Typology from Two Areas of the Black Desert of Jordan (Gary Rollefson) Investigations of Prehistoric Exploitation in Jordan's Black Desert (Gary Rollefson with Yorke Rowan, Alexander Wasse, A. C. Hill and Morag Kersel); Archaeology Engaging the Anthropocene (Øystein LaBianca); From Workers to Partners: How Petra's Host Communities Are Now Taking the Lead in the TWLCRM Initiative (Maria Elena Ronza and Glenn Corbett); Who Owns this Part of the Past? Protecting Tall al-'Umayri's Cultural Heritage (Douglas Clark with Kent Bramlett); Tall Jalul Excavation Results: Phase I (Randall Younker and Constance Gane); The Shrine of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist and the Origins of Madaba (Elisabeth Lesnes); Water System at Tall Jalul (Paul Gregor); and 'Ataruz and the Ancient Road System (Chang-Ho Ji).

Project members who chaired sessions include: Ghazi Bisheh, Bethany Walker, Douglas Clark, Gary Rollefson, Randall Younker, and Øystein LaBianca. A day trip, with tours to the sites of Amman, Jerash and Madaba was also included. As usual, the conference papers will be published in the next conference volume: *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan, Volume 13*.
(Paul J. Ray, Jr.)

Paul Z. Gregor Presents Paper at the ICHAJ Conference.

Jalul 2016

The 2016 Season of excavations at Tall Jalul were conducted from May 1-June 2 by faculty and students from Andrews University. The excavations were directed by Paul Z. Gregor, along with co-directors Constance Gane, and Paul Ray. Issa Siriani and Amal Khaled Rwahneh served as representatives for the Department of Antiquities of Jordan. Excavations, this season, took place in two fields (B and W).

Field B, on the eastern edge of the tell, was originally begun in 1992, at which time eight squares were opened. Two superimposed flagstone pavements were found, both dating to Iron Age II. The lower of the two pavements was found primarily in Squares B4 and B6, and initially dated to the early 9th century BC. The upper pavement was uncovered in Squares B2-B5, and B7, and dated to the 9th/8th centuries BC. Additional squares further to the southwest, opened in 1999, revealed that the upper pavement had some additional re-pavings, the latest dating to Late Iron Age II.

The purpose of the 2016 season was to clarify the stratigraphy between the upper and lower roads in order to provide a firmer date for the construction of these pavements. This season, two squares (B2 and B6) were re-opened, and supervised by Robert Bates. A 3 x 3 m probe was opened in Square B2, the upper road removed, and the earth excavated until a lower road was found. Then a 1.5 x 1.5 m section of this lower road was removed, and a smaller probe excavated another ca. 70 cm below. In Square B6, a 2 x 4 m probe was also opened. Here the original lower road was removed, and the earth excavated to a depth of 1.7 m.

In Square B2, excavation revealed that the revetment wall, found earlier in the 1990s, in Squares B4, B6, and B8, continued below the upper pavement. A new lower pavement, as well as a remnant of a possible second one, was found beneath the remains of the upper pavement. The probe in Square B6, underneath the original lower pavement, yielded considerable amounts of pottery, but no evidence for an additional pavement or pavements.

On the basis of work in Field B this season it would appear that there are at least three phases of road on the northern end of Field B. The earliest flagstone pavement was built in Early Iron Age II. Two flat-lying stones at different ends of the probe in Square B2 may represent an additional, slightly later rebuild of this lower road. Sometime later, the revetment wall was built against the east side of the

tell. When the road was again in need of resurfacing, the builders laid it against the revetment wall at a higher level, reusing some of the stones of the earlier road. Finally, the upper pavement was laid. At this time the builders removed the upper stone courses of the earlier revetment wall and laid the new paving stones above this wall, and in part, further to the west. Some Late Iron Age II pottery was found below the uppermost earth layers, below the upper pavement, suggesting either a possibly later repair, or perhaps the equivalent to the latest repaving in the inner gateway, to the southwest, already found in the 1999 season.

Field W was originally opened in the 2010 season in order to explore the nature and function of the water channel discovered in Field G during the 2007 and 2009 seasons, as well as to discover its relationship to the water reservoir. Fourteen squares have been opened in Field W during the 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2015 seasons. The eastern wall and the floor of the reservoir were found in the 2011 season, its southern wall located in 2012, and clearing operations being carried out during the following seasons. The bottom of the reservoir has been reached in Squares W2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14, revealing the floor of almost half of the reservoir. On the basis of the ceramic evidence from where the eastern wall of the reservoir cuts the floors of an earlier building, it would appear that the structure was constructed during the 10th century BC, with the earliest material on the reservoir floor indicating that it went out of use during the last part of 7th century BC.

Jacob Moody Taking Photos.

Paul Ray Working with Michael Orellana on iPad Locus Sheets.

In 2016 work continued in Squares W12, 13 and 14. After work in these squares was completed, three new squares (W15, 16, and 17) were begun.

A stone wall (Locus 16) was found in Square W7 during the 2012 season, and was initially thought to have served as a partition to the reservoir. It has since been completely excavated, and found to be sitting on the plastered floor of the reservoir. This same wall continued west into Square 12, as locus 20, the remainder of which was excavated this season. It is constructed with tightly-packed dirt and stones, and may have served as a retaining wall, supporting a massive ramp or dam. In 2015, another wall (Locus 16) was discovered, immediately to the north, in Square W8, that was also sitting on the floor of the reservoir, and may have served as revetment wall, supporting the larger wall. The function of the overall, combined structure, which was poorly made and ultimately collapsed, is still unknown. Most likely it was constructed during the Persian period, after the reservoir went out of use.

A few days before the end of the season, another part of the wall of the reservoir was found in Square W16. Work was not completed here, or in Squares W15, and 17, and will continue in the future.

This season we experimented with digital locus sheets in Field B. The locus sheets from the Madaba Plains Project Field Manual were converted into a completely digital format by Robert Bates, using File Maker Pro software, and run in the field on the File Maker Go App, on iPads, in each square. The data were then linked from the iPad to a lap top computer at the end of each day in the field. In addition, photography was taken by a digital camera from a wonderpole (a telescoping device with a camera mount on top) integrated with an iPad as an optical piece, with the numerous images combined together to create a final 3D image of each square, using Photo Scan Pro software. These images are also being used, back in the lab, to make top plans, section and architectural drawings. (Paul Gregor, Constance E. Gane, Paul J. Ray, Jr., Robert D. Bates and Randall W. Younker)

RANDOM SURVEY

Traces of Hannibal:

Archaeologists have found coins and projectiles in a moat around the town of Viltar de Vals, Spain, likely connected with the troops of Hannibal, who traversed the Iberian Peninsula, and crossed the Pyrenees with soldiers and elephants, to fight Rome in 218 BC, in the Second Punic War (218-202 BC). Hannibal had left ca. 11,000 men to protect his interests in northern Iberia, but the Roman legion, under Gnaeus Calvus, defeated these men, raiding the nearby Carthaginian camp, located on the edge of the town, destroying everything.

Tomb Found in Egypt:

Archaeologists have recently discovered the tomb of Pharaoh Sobekhotep IV, one of the kings of the 13th Dynasty of Egypt, at the site of Abydos. Fragments of a painted coffin made of cedar wood, decorated with a specific group of coffin texts from mid-13th Dynasty (Second Intermediate Period) were discovered, along with remnants of canopic jars.

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Cypriot Amulet Found:

A 1,500 year-old amulet has been found in the city of Nea Paphos, on Cyprus. It says: "Iahweh is the bearer of the secret name, the lion of Re secure in his shrine." Being a palindrome, it reads the same backwards and forwards. The charm also has etchings of gods including Osiris and mythological animals such as a dog-headed creature called a cynocephalus. The amulet was used when Cyprus was part of the Eastern Roman Empire, and Christianity was its official religion. However, the amulet sugests that some people still kept more ancient practices.

Red Seat Numbers at the Colosseum:

Traces of red-painted numbers in Latin letters have recently been found at the Colosseum, in Rome. The letters, which were carved into the travertine stones, and then painted, were located on 76 of the 80 entrance gate arches, allowing patrons easier access to their seats, according to their social class. Two unnumbered gate entrances were reserved for the emperor, senators, magistrates, wealthy patricians, and Vestal Virgins. One gate was used by gladiators prior to combats, and another to remove the dead.

Literacy in Ancient Judah:

Computer-assisted analysis of the Arad Ostraca suggests a high degree of literacy in ancient Judah by ca. 600 BC. The inscriptions found there were written by at least six different individuals, ranking from a military commander down to the quartermaster.

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