N E W S L E T T E R

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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Archaeological Field Trip

The concerns of insurance carriers and risk managers with the continuing strife in the Middle East compelled the Institute of Archaeology to look for alternate educational experiences in archaeology for our students this summer. We found the perfect solution by exploring the Minoan, Mycenaean, and Greek cultures in Cyprus, Crete and Greece from May 10 to 27. All of these cultures maintained important contacts with Egypt and the Levant at various times throughout ancient history, and now seemed the perfect time to examine these cultures directly. Drs. Dave Merling, Paul Ray and Randall Younker were accompanied by doctoral candidates Robert Bates, Efrain Velazquez, Ron Wakeman, history/religion major Michael Younker and photographer Ariel Velazquez for an expedition that explored these regions.

The expedition began in Cyprus. We stayed in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, from where we made our excursions. Thanks to the superb preparation work of Dr. Paul Ray, we had excellent summary reports and maps for each site we visited. These materials were reviewed on site at the beginning of each stop. The group had several digital and video cameras that were used to photograph the major features of each site. These images will be added to the Institute archive.

Highlights of our visit to Cyprus include Idalion, Kition, Kalavassos, Amathous, Kourion, the Troodos Mountains (where copper was mined in antiquity), Paphos, (where the apostle Paul visited the Roman proconsul Sergius Paulus) and Kornos, to visit the traditional potters of Cyprus.

The group also visited the *Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute* (*CAARI*), affiliated with the *American Schools of Oriental Research* (*ASOR*), where they received a warm welcome. *CAARI* is the main center for American scholars working in Cyprus. In addition, the group

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Group at the Acropolis: (l to r) Ariel Velazquez, Efrain Velazquez, Paul Ray, Robert Bates, Dave Merling, Michael Younker, Randy Younker and Ron Wakeman (kneeling)

was also able to visit sites such as Enkomi and Salamis on the northern side of the island presently controlled by Turkey. The Turks had just opened up the border to Greeks, making the crossing much easier. Our American group did not even have to show our passports when leaving and entering the Greek side.

We then flew to Athens where we saw the tremendous preparation that is being made in anticipation of the thousands of visitors coming to see the famous archaeological sites in Athens during the Olympic Games next summer. We then put our vehicles aboard a ferry and sailed to Crete where we spent several days exploring sites and museums related to the Minoan culture. Highlights included Knossos, the Herakleion Archaeological Museum, the Archanes cemetery at Phourni, the Minoan Villa at Vathypetro, the Minoan shrine at Juktas where human sacrifices were performed, Malia, Gournia, Agia Triada (Minoan), Phaestos (where the famous Phaestos disk was found), and the Villa of the Lilies at Amnissos, the harbor of Knossos.

The group then sailed back to Greece where a thorough exploration of the length and breadth of Greece was undertaken. Sites included, Marathon, Mt. Olympus, Thessalonika, Philippi, Kavala, Berea (Verea), Thermopylae (where the 300 Spartans under King Leonidas died, defending the Greek army against the Persians). We also explored Athens, Corinth, Mycenae and other important sites. The trip ended with a visit (again by ferry) to the Island of Patmos, where the Apostle John wrote the book of Revelation. We discovered that for 10 Euros per person we could tour the island on rented scooters. Besides the Greek monastery and the traditional cave of John, we explored the acropolis above Skala. The walls of this site date to the Hellenistic period, and the ground was covered with Late period (Hellenistic and perhaps later sherds). This site could have been in use during the Roman period (John's time). (Randall W. Younker)

Lions Gate at Mycenae, Greece

Graham on Moab

Andrew Graham, a Ph. D. candidate at the University of Toronto, presented an illustrated lecture for the Horn Museum lectureship series on Feb. 10, 2003. Graham has excavated in Greece and Jordan, where he has worked as an Area Supervisor for the Tell Madaba Archaeological Project as well as being the Director of the Mukhayyat Mapping Project. His dissertation topic is the economic structure of Moab and the reason for his visit to the Institute of Archaeology was to compare Jalul pottery with other sites in the region.

Andrew Graham at Madaba, Jordan

Graham's lecture was entitled *Showdown at Moab.* Philosophically, he believes that all war is linked to the competition (access to or control) of resources. Ancient Moab was rich agriculturally, and for this reason contested for the control of its resources throughout its history. The archaeological history of Moab indicates that the defense of its borders and the control of its agricultural land were of great importance to both the Moabites and the competing polities of the region. In reality, unless there was a natural topographical boundary the frontiers between ancient peoples were always in flux. A good example is Moab's northern border, which was particularly fluid, and located in an area that was also claimed, throughout history, by the Amorites, the Ammonites, and various tribes of Israelites. Madaba was probably the largest Iron Age II site in the area with a 7.00 m wide fortification wall, parallel to Hezekiah's broad wall in Jerusalem, recently found in the excavations there. Other sites in the region incorporated dry moats on one or more sides of their fortification systems, or built sloping *glaçis* or casemate walls

and six-chambered gates.

After the Late Bronze Age, both the Hittites and Egypt went into decline allowing for the polities, on both sides of the Jordan River, to develop to a new level of complexity. Multiple conflicts are known in this region. Shishak's invasion in 925 B.C. was for the purpose of weakening both Judah and Israel and to destroy the lucrative trade network that linked goods from Africa and Arabia via the Gulf of Aqaba and the Negev, where he destroyed numerous sites, to Judah. These trade routes were the financial backbone of the economy of Judah. Moab, in the meantime, had been a vassal to Israel, under David and Solomon, and then under the northern kingdom of Israel in the early years of the divided monarchy.

Shishak's invasion must have significantly weakened Israel, because at some point before end of the reign of Ahab, Moab began to assert itself. The Omride response was to place new levies on Moab. Hence, Mesha rebelled and took back northern Moab, fortifying it extensively. Israel, needing the tribute from this rich agricultural land to help fund its expansionist policies, chose to come with its ally (Judah and their vassal Edom) and retake Moab. Since northern Moab was so well-fortified, the attack came from the south at Kir Hareseth (2 Kgs 3). The battle ended in a stalemate, with Mesha sacrificing his son and Israel with its allies leaving for an unspecified reason (2 Kgs 3:26-27). That reason, Graham suggests, was the coming of Assyrians, which was a more pressing threat. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)

Sumerian Lecture

Richard Averbeck, professor of OT and Semitic Languages at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School presented lectures on Sumerian Language and Culture at Andrews University between March 10-13, 2003, as well as a lecture for the Horn Museum lectureship entitled, *Building a House for God in the World of the Bible.*

Richard Averbeck

The temple building hymn, recorded on Gudea Cylinders A and B, is a skillfully crafted masterpiece of Sumerian literature. Written at the end of the Sumerian period (ca. 2100 B.C) in parallel lines, this narrative poetic hymn contains figurative language that commemorates the construction and dedication of a new Eninnu temple for the god Ningirsu, the patron deity of Lagash by Gudea, the governor of Lagash**.** The blueprint for this temple has been found in the lap of a seated figure of Gudea.

According to Averbeck, the construction of a temple was a ritual process that involved complicated formulas. In Cylinder A, the first formula begins, "the faithful shepherd Gudea had come to know what was important" and "proceeded to do it." He received a revelation in a dream to build a temple. The goddess Nanshe interpreted it and told him how to proceed. Then, Gudea presented a gift to Ningirsu and incubated a second dream to get further instructions and details about the temple's construction. Later, Gudea persuaded the people of Lagash to cooperate in its construction.

The second formula of Cylinder A begins, "for the faithful shepherd, Gudea, it was cause for rejoicing." During the construction process, Gudea, performed various rituals, gathered the workmen, surveyed the site, laid out the sacred area and made the first brick. Then he returned to the temple to incubate another dream to receive further instructions before he began to outfit the temple with its various sacred furnishings.

Cylinder B describes the dedication of the new Eninnu temple and its occupation by Ningirsu and Baba his consort. Gudea invited the gods to enter the temple and take possession of it, then hosting a celebration in their honor.

Averbeck believes there are many similarities between the Gudea Cylinders and the biblical temple building accounts. He identifies five stages in the Ancient Near Eastern temple building process that can be compared to the Bible. First, a king makes the decision to build a temple that is sanctioned by a divinity. David sought permission from God (1 Kgs 5) to build a temple as Gudea sought permission from Ningirsu. Second, the king makes preparations for the building project by gathering materials, finding workers and laying the first brick. David and Solomon collected the materials (1 Kgs 5) and prepared the sacred site for construction just as Gudea did. Third, the construction narrative is a detailed description of the building process, the buildings themselves and the furnishings of the temple. The detailed account of the temple and its furnishings (1 Kgs 6-7) is similar to those found in Cylinder A. Fourth, when the temple is completed the king gives a prayer of dedication and initiates a celebration or festival (cf. 1 Kgs 8, and Cylinder B). In the final stage of the building process, the divinity consecrates the holy spaces of the temple and blesses the king. The god promises to hear those who enter the temple and support the king who built it (1 Kgs 9 and Cylinder B).

Some scholars have voiced concern about making direct comparisons with other temple building accounts in the Ancient Near East. Averbeck points out that caution should be taken when discussing similarities with the biblical text because there are equally compelling differences and that the structure of the text and the cultural context are also needed for proper understanding. (Robert D. Bates)

RANDOM SURVEY

Egyptian Museum Contest

An architect from the Republic of Ireland has won the international competition to design a new national museum that will be build near the Pyramids of Giza. Sheh-fu Peng of Dublin created a partially underground desert-hugging design with a terraced roofline reflecting the nearby Egyptian burial complex. This 38,000 sq. m museum is one of four museums being built in Egypt over the next 10-15 years. It will house the best of Egypt's national treasures and will be called the "Grand Museum." It will also include a special section for children.

Warka Vase Returned

The Warka vase which was looted during the aftermath of the war in Iraq was returned to the Iraq National Museum as part of an amnesty program. The 5,000 year old artifact is considered one of the first sculptures and is believed to come from the Sumerian city of Uruk. The 3 ft alabaster vase was damaged but curators say that it can be restored.

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

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Lost History

During renovations, workers at the University of Toronto accidentally threw away a collection of Ontario artifacts. The 15th century AD artifacts were being stored near some used equipment in a storage area of an underground tunnel. Several locked cages in the tunnel held 280 boxes of pottery, stone tools and other items from the native people and colonists of the Ontario area. Curators believe the the remains ended up in a landfill in Michigan.

Tall Jawa Publication

P. M. Daviau recently published *Excavations at Tall Jawa, Jordan, vol. 1: The Iron Age Town*, Brill Academic Publishers. Located in a strategic position on the southern flank of the Ammonite hill country, overlooking the Madaba Plain, the earliest settlement at Tall Jawa dates to the Iron I period (1100-900 BC). This volume presents the final report of six seasons of excavations at Tall Jawa in central Jordan. The particular focus of this report is the architecture and stratigraphy of the settlements which occupied the site during the Iron Age (1100-600 BC).

Forthcoming

The Publications Department has finished editing a new book entitled, *Old Babylonian Account Texts in the Horn Archaeological Museum, Vol. VIII,* by Marcel Sigrist. It should be out by Nov. 2003.

NEWSLETTER

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