

NEWSLETTER

The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



Jalul 2007

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter is published four times a year by the Institute of Archaeology, Andrews University. Annual subscription price is \$7.50. Museum membership, subscription, and editorial correspondence should be addressed to the Horn Archaeological Museum, Institute of Archaeology, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0990, Telephone 269-471-3273, Fax 269-471-3619, e-mail hornmusm@andrews.edu.

Volume 28.3
Summer 2007
ISSN 1095-2837

Excavations were conducted at Tall Jalul, 5 km east of Madaba, by Andrews University in consortium with the Madaba Plains Project (MPP) from May 31-July 9, 2007. Randall W. Younker and Constance E. Gane were codirectors. Hanadi Taher was the Department of Antiquities representative. Reem Shqour and Basam Taher also aided the project with various logistical issues. Field Directors included Dr. Paul Gregor, Prof. Constance Gane, Dr. Paul Ray, Ms. Jennifer Groves, Dr. Robert Bates, and Dr. Mark Ziese. Approximately 60 foreign and 20 Jordanian workers participated in the excavations, which were also supported by the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and the American Schools of Oriental Research.

The goals of the project have been, in part, to illuminate the cultural and political history of both the site of Jalul and its immediate region during the last 5000 years. This season excavations were conducted in six different fields (A, C, D, E, G, and H). In Field A, walls of a late Iron II/Persian-period building were uncovered about half a meter below the surface.

In Field C, the south wall of a large building was exposed, as well as two walls of a second building to the south of the first. Both structures date to the Late Iron II/Persian period. Between the two buildings was an alleyway or small street that had been resurfaced several times.

In Field D, work continued in three rooms on the west side of the large Late Iron II/Persian-period building complex, uncovered in previous seasons. Different floor levels were reached in the northwesternmost room. A significant number of complete (though broken) pots as well as several human and animal figurines were found in these rooms. The staff was unable to reach the base of any of the walls in these rooms this season, so it is possible that there are phases preceding the

(con'd. on p. 2)



Jalul 2007 Team.

Late Iron II/Persian period. The most significant find this season was an ostrakon found in a fill in the northeast part of the building. It contained five lines of text. A preliminary reading suggests that it is a list of Ammonite family names dating to the late 7th/early-6th century BC. This is slightly earlier than the ceramic evidence found in the building, suggesting earlier occupational phases existed in this area that have not yet been reached.

In Field E, on the east side of the tell, work continued around the mudbrick wall exposed last season (2005). Stone wall fragments of another wall were located to the west of the mudbrick wall. The bases of these walls were not reached, so definite dates could not be determined for either wall. However, the fills associated with them contained pottery from the Late Iron II/Persian period as well as the Late Iron Age II.

Two new fields (G and H) were opened on the south side of the tell, in the hope of locating a city wall. The locations of the fields were selected on the basis of some large hewn stones protruding through the surface of the tell in a line that looked as if they might be part of a wall. Excavation in Field H uncovered three large stones in a line that appeared to be flat flagstones normally used for a road or approach ramp. Unfortunately, they were isolated and their exact function is unknown at this time. Ceramics found in association with these stones date to the Late Iron Age II. Several ballista (sling stones) were found near them.

In Field G, on the southeast corner of the tell, a 3.0 m stretch of a large stone wall was excavated in Square G2. It is possible that this wall is part of a tower for the city's fortification system, although more excavation is needed to verify this supposition. Although at least four courses of the wall were exposed, the base of the wall was not reached, leaving its exact date uncertain. Fills associated with the wall date to Late Iron II/Persian, Late Iron Age II and Iron Age I. A curious structure found along the north face of the "tower" wall was a plastered chan-

nel that seemed to drain water to the outside of the wall. It seems to cut into the earlier wall system, and thus dates to a later phase (Iron II/Persian period?). A wall with some plaster on it was found in Square G4, just north of the water channel, and is probably associated with it. A second wall fragment was found farther north. It also dates to the Late Iron II/Persian period. (Randall W. Younker)



Ibrahim Lecture

On Nov. 13, 2006, Moawiyah Ibrahim, professor and Dean of Arts at Al-Isra Private University in Amman, Jordan presented a lecture entitled *Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Yemen*. During the 1980s and again in 2005, Dr. Ibrahim was invited to coordinate and serve as chief archaeologist on international projects in Yemen.

The country of Yemen is located in the southwestern corner of the Arabian Peninsula, which is bordered by the Red Sea, Indian Ocean, Arabian/Persian Gulf, and the Arabian Desert on the north. The earliest settlement in the area dates to the 2nd millennium BC and is located just north of the city of Aden. Well-made pottery indicates connections with East Africa (Sudan and Eritrea).

The largest south Arabian kingdom during the 1st millennium BC was Saba⁶, whose capital was Marib. Perhaps its most sophisticated structure was the Marib Dam (8th century BC). The dam was rebuilt only 25 years ago. About 15 km away is the Al-Jufaiha Dam, which was established during the 12th or 11th century BC. These two dams give evidence of Sabaeen skill with water systems. Near the mound of old Marib, there is a temple from the Sabaeen period that was later converted to a mosque. Inscriptions from the 7th and 6th centuries BC can be found on its walls. The 5th century BC Bar'an Temple, recently restored after excavations and now open



Moawiyah Ibrahim.

to tourists, is also of interest. The stone for building the temple came from the nearby quarries of Balaq and would have been rolled down to the building area. At Balaq there is an inscription regarding the rules of quarry use that dates to the 4th century BC.

Dr. Ibrahim's most recent focus in Yemen is the Temple of Mahram Bilqis, or Temple of the Moon (Ilmaqah), also known as the Awam Temple. Its oval shape has parallels in Mesopotamia and Palestine, but not in Arabia until now.

The remains consist of a peristyle hall, eight columns in front of the holy of holies, and a number of annexes around the temple. A large number of monumental South Arabic inscriptions dating to the 1st century AD can be found in the peristyle hall. The burial ground and mausoleum are to the south of the Temple. Some of the decorative elements found at the Temple include a bronze statue of Barib-il, a life-size bronze horse, and a portico overlooking a pool.

The Temple had five Iron Age occupational phases (ca. 8th-4th centuries BC). A 5th century BC inscription predates the paved floor. There was also an *in situ* 5th century BC bronze plaque at the base of a staircase that contains the names of two kings, one from 8th century

BC and the other from the 6th century BC. An alabaster head was found in a later enclosure wall that consisted of 20 courses of stones, 10 m high. A number of bronze figures were found, as well as a Middle Sabaeic Inscription.

On the one hand late 4th-early 5th century AD pottery found in the walls of the annex suggest that it was not used as a temple after that time. However, many animal bones were found at a sacrificial area nearby, which indicate that it may have been used until the coming of Islam. The results of excavations of the Oval Temple have been published in several volumes by the Publications of the American Foundation for the Study of Man (AFSM).

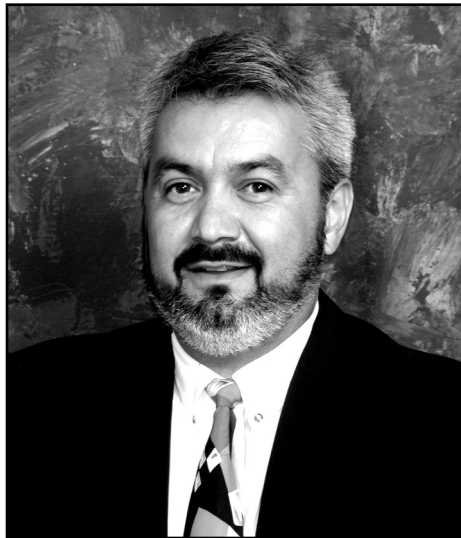
There are a number of Tower Tombs near Marib that date from the 3rd-2nd millenniums BC that are related to those in Bahrain, but the corresponding settlements from that era have not been found.

Other sites of interest in Yemen include the site of Baraqish (ancient Yathul), the capital of the Kingdom of Ma'in, ca. 400 BC, where a Minaean temple has recently been restored by the Italians. At Timnah, the capital of the kingdom of Qataban, there are several monumental South Arabic inscriptions at the gate of the city. At the palace of Shabwa, the capital of Hadhramawt, the Jabal 'Uqlah Inscriptions, which were dedicatory inscriptions of the kings of Hadhramawt, have been found. Shabwa was not built near a main road but near salt mines, which still exist. Some of the oldest skyscrapers known can be found at the 16th century AD city of Shibam. They are made of mud brick and reach heights of 13 stories. (Carrie Rhodes)



Ortiz Lecture

Dr. Steven Ortiz, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX, lectured at Andrews University on Dec. 4, 2006 on the archaeology of Tel Gezer, of which he



Steven M. Ortiz.

is the director. The name Gezer appears in the Bible as part of a coalition against Joshua, as a tribal allotment for the tribe of Ephraim, as a Levitical city, and as an Egyptian stronghold, which ultimately became a dowry to Solomon when he married Pharaoh's daughter.

Tel Gezer is a 33-acre site in the foothills of Jerusalem in the region between the coastal plain and the hill country of Judah. It is strategically located on important north-south and east-west trade routes and was conquered many times. There have been two major excavations at the site from 1902-1909, and from 1964-74, with followup seasons in 1984 and 1990. The site is well-known for its major discoveries including the "high place," water system, four-chambered gate, glacis and tower from the Middle Bronze Age, as well as its six-chambered (Solomonic) gate and famous "Gezer calendar" from the Iron Age. Late Bronze Age Gezer is mentioned in the Amarna letters where the king of Gezer complained to the king of Egypt about trouble from the *'Apiru*, and on the Merenptah Stele. The outer wall of the site is dated to this period. Rhodian jar handles, lamps, a Jewish ritual bath and 12 boundary stones, identifying the site, attest to Hellenistic period Gezer, which is mentioned in 1 Macc 13 as being gar-

isoned by Simon Maccabee after he took the city from the Seleucids ca. 140 BC.

Why go back to Gezer? Although Gezer's history is known, there are several problems regarding the Iron Age city. The excavations in the 1960s and '70s focused on stratigraphy, but did not get a broad overview of the city. The results of the 1984 and 1990 excavations have not yet been fully published, especially Palaces 8,000 and 10,000. The 1984 excavations discovered three major strata from the 8th, 9th and 10th centuries BC, including two destructions. The 9th century BC artifacts found at Gezer are some of the few in existence in this region, and are important to the discussion of the low Iron Age chronology, as it is the 9th century BC in particular that is debated. One of the problems is that these objects are currently not associated with good 9th century BC strata. The primary focus of the new excavations will be on obtaining a large horizontal exposure of the Iron Age structures along with well-stratified sequences. A reinvestigation of the Iron Age fortification system and several other buildings from this time are also on the agenda.

Gezer has recently become a national park, so in 2006 only a section along the fortification system was available for excavation, of which over 40 m were exposed. On the basis of the work this season it appears that the gate and casemate system were built as a large "box" which contained sterile fill. Two pre-Solomonic destruction layers were found, containing mixed Late Bronze Age I and II pottery. Two Iron Age destruction layers were also found. Ortiz postulates that one of these layers belongs to the 21st Dynasty Pharaoh Siamun, as a storage jar stopper which was found in the destruction layer contains a seal that has been associated with Siamun. The casemate was rebuilt and then destroyed in the 8th century BC, the destruction layer perhaps reflecting the activities of Tiglath-Pileser III in the region. (Carrie Rhodes)



RANDOM SURVEY

Hera Statue Found:

A life-sized marble statue of Hera has recently been found in secondary use in a wall of the city of Dion, near Mt. Olympus, Greece. The second century BC statue, though now headless, may have originally stood next to Zeus in a temple dedicated to the head of the pantheon of ancient Greek gods. A statue of Zeus was found in the ruins of this same building in 2003. Dion was a major religious center of the ancient Macedonians. Alexander the Great offered sacrifices there before launching his campaign against the Persians.

Gladiator Carvings Found:

Italian police have recovered a cache of 12 marble panels that may have once decorated a tomb. The panels show fighters with swords and shields engaged in combat in an arena. In one scene, a gladiator steps on the wrist of an opponent who raises a finger in a traditional plea for mercy.

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Who's Inside?

For about 100 years, four blue-glazed jars at the Louvre which carried the tag of Ramses II were believed to contain his bodily remains, even though his heart was later found inside his mummy. Recent analysis of two of the jars has revealed that one contains an aromatic salve while the other contains the organs of another person who lived 760 years after Ramses. It is now thought that the one jar, which contained animal fat mixed with coniferous oil in its residue, originally held sacred cosmetics in the Temple of Ramses II.

Early Horse Figures Found in Turkey:

Twenty horse figures and a figure resembling a human showing his hands before the horses have recently been found, painted on rock formations in Eskişehir, Turkey. They are the first known horse figures in Anatolia, dating back to 6,000 BC, and come from an area where horses were raised at one time. Early Neolithic period ceramics and flints have also been discovered in the region, suggesting that the area may have also been used for settlement.

Ancient Beehives:

Thirty intact beehives, made of straw and unbaked clay with remnants of honeycombs and beeswax, have been found at Rehov, in northern Israel. The hives, dating to ca. 900 BC, reflect the earliest empirical evidence of the industry.

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