

The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

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Hisban Visitor Center Charrette

Recently an important step was taken toward the goal of establishing a Cultural-Heritage Education and Visitor Center in the village of Hisban, Jordan. During two weeks in June of 2009 an on-site “charrette” or design workshop was completed by Professor Martin Smith of the Division of Architecture at Andrews University and eleven architecture students. The charrette included opportunities to learn more about current plans for development of tourism facilities in the greater Amman and Madaba regions; visit selected examples of cultural-heritage education and visitor centers in Jordan; become acquainted with the building site in the village of Hisban; meet with some of the key stakeholders in this community-development project; and begin work on drawing up a preliminary design proposal as the basis for further input from key stakeholders and potential donors. Students who participated included Mikhail Alert, Richard Brace, Ricardo Flores, Joshua Goheen, Isai Hernandez, Melody Johnson, Wendell Joseph, Jennifer Moutsatson, Oscar Ontiveros, Arturo Rodriguez, and Justin Seibold.

Others who assisted with the workshop included Elena Ronza, Italian-Jordanian architect, archaeologist and agent for Andrews University in Jordan; Leen Fakhoury, professor of Architecture at the University of Jordan, and her students, Mohamed and Raseem; as well as Marlana Job, a recent graduate in art history from Columbia University with a specialty in cultural-heritage-preservation policy and practice. Øystein LaBianca, Senior Director of the Hisban Archaeological Project, initiated the workshop and helped facilitate logistics and stakeholder input. Local stakeholders who participated included Makhalet Al-Ghammar and Madiha Al-Barar of the Hisban Municipality; Adnan Al-Sawa’ir, a Deputy of the Jordanian Parliament; Mohammad Ammar and Mansour Sheehan, lawyers from Hisban; Shadi Al-Masha’leh and Amer Al-Awawdeh, teachers from Hisban; Dr. Mohammad Safa’ Nabulsi, representing the Nabulsi family; Sabah Abu Hudeib, of Department of Antiquities of Jordan (DAJ); and Saoud Al-Barari, of a Jordanian NGO.

(cont’d. on p. 2)



(l-r) Elena Ronza, Melody Johnson, Arturo Rodriguez, and Øystein LaBianca at Charrette.

In terms of opportunities to learn about existing cultural-heritage education and visitor centers in Jordan, tours were organized to the Citadel Museum, the Al-Hussein Cultural Center; the Jordan National Museum; the Wild Jordan Café; and the Department of Architecture at the University of Jordan, in Amman; the Madaba Archaeological Museum; Archaeological Park, and Mosaic School; Haret Al-Joudoudna Restaurant in Madaba; Jerash; Dibhan; Kerak and Petra; the Taybet Zaman Hotel for an example of restoration and reuse of a traditional village; the Abu Jaber House, in Salt; and the Abraham Path Initiative.

Highlights of what was experienced, learned and accomplished by workshop participants include: an enhanced appreciation and understanding of the complexities of involving the local community in planning for new projects in cultural-heritage preservation, education and tourism; becoming acquainted with the key players in the field of cultural-heritage preservation and development in Jordan; crystallization of a shared vision of how to move forward with planning for and building the visitor center on the Nabulsi lands in Hisban; buy-in for this vision from key representatives of the Hisban Cultural Association; completion of a first draft of a multiphased plan for developing and using the allocated lands; completion of a first draft of a multiphased plan for obtaining funding for the construction of the visitor center and for its programs; identification of several leads to possible sources of funding for this project—most of which came to light as a result of being in Jordan and working on this project; completion of a power-point presentation on the core principles that should guide future construction; initiation of an inventory of architectural patterns that will serve as design guidelines as we move toward actually designing buildings; a good start on collaboration with the Department of Architecture of the University of Jordan; lessons learned about how to involve architecture students in future cultural-heritage preservation endeavors.



Nabulsi Building: Proposed site for the Hisban Education and Visitor Center.

The charrette represents the latest in a succession of steps toward presenting the site of Tall Hisban to the public. An initial proposal for restoration of the site's most important features was presented to the DAJ in 1976 at the end of the first phase of excavations at the site. An updated version of this plan was eventually begun in 1996 in connection with a second phase of archaeological research and restoration initiated by Dr. LaBianca. The work to date has included repair and consolidation of several architectural features on and immediately below the acropolis. Access to the site has also been improved with a parking area, an access stairway leading up to the summit, and walking paths and viewing platforms with signs in Arabic and English around the summit.

Funding for these improvements has come from Andrews University, the DAJ, and a United States Ambassador's Grant for Cultural Heritage and Preservation. In 2007, an agreement was signed between the Municipality of Hisban and the DAJ authorizing municipality workers to pick up trash and keep walking paths and key archaeological features clear of thistles.

Recently an application has been filed with the government of Jordan to establish an NGO to coordinate local input into planning and development of the Hisban Cultural Heritage and Education Center. Known as the Hisban Tourist Association, its members include representatives from the Nabulsi family who have committed a portion of their family lands in the old village of Hisban for the development of the center; employees of the municipality of Hisban;

a representative from the DAJ; several Jordanian academics with ties to Hisban; and a senator representing the people of Hisban. The Nabulsis have requested Andrews University, as the excavators of nearby Tall Hisban, to take a lead in working with the Hisban Cultural Association to develop plans for the center.

The program for the initial phase includes basic tourist services, facilities for community education, and activities to generate revenue. For tourists, there will be a main gateway to the site, a welcome area with public services, areas for visualization technology and cultural displays to learn the story of Hisban. For community education, there will be classrooms for learning English and training in information technology. For revenue, there will be a small café and a designated area for market kiosks to grow as economic demand increases.

The workshop defined the steps to be taken to ensure that new development occurs with respect to the conservation of existing structures and historical patterns of use. (Øystein LaBianca, Martin Smith, and Elena Ronza)



ASOR 2009

The venue for this year's annual meeting of the *American Schools of Oriental Research* was the city of New Orleans, held between November 18-21, 2009. The meetings, as usual, were well attended, with a smorgasbord of 55 sessions and 247 presentations available.

Other professional organizations with annual meetings where sessions on archaeology are offered within close proximity were the *Near East Archaeological Society* (held concurrently: November 18-20) and the *Society of Biblical Literature* (immediately following: November 21-24). Karel van der Toorn of the University of Amsterdam and the Hogeschool van Amsterdam was the speaker for the plenary session, presenting his address on “The Wisdom of Magic.”

A number of Madaba Plains Project members and affiliates, as is traditional, presented papers or participated in various aspects of the program. Those who chaired sessions this year included: Michael Hasel (Khirbet Qeiyafa II: A Fortified City in Judah from the Time of King David); Constance Gane (Archaeology of Mesopotamia I); Øystein LaBianca (Order and Conflict: Roundtables on the Agency Role of Empires in the Levant), who also presented a preliminary introduction to the theme and facilitated the discussion; David Graf (Arabia II: The Arabian Peninsula); Bert de Vries (Byzantine and Early Islamic Near East); and Theodore Burgh (Music in Tragedy’s Wake). In addition, Lawrence Geraty chaired the Madaba Plains Project Reception; Douglas Clark, the Madaba Plains Project Staff Consultation; Øystein LaBianca, the Madaba Plains Project Next Generation; and Bethany Walker, Consultation of Dig Directors in Jordan.

Individual submissions were made by: Michael Hasel (The Fortified Building



Owen Chesnut with Jalul Poster.

at Khirbet Qeiyafa); Randall Younker and Constance Gane (The 2008-2009 Seasons at Tall Jalul, Jordan: Madaba Plains Project); P. M. Michèle Daviau (Industrial Furnishings from Khirbat al-Mudayna ath-Thamad: Clues from Egyptian Iconography); Christopher Chadwick (Middle and Late Bronze Age Pottery from Tall Jalul); Robert Bates with Jennifer Helbley and Douglas Clark (The Melting Pot: Examining the Effects of a House Fire on Early Iron Age Storage Jars); Timothy Harrison, Bert de Vries, Bethany Walker, and Øystein LaBianca (Roundtable Hosts on Empires of Early Antiquity, Classical and Late Antiquity, and Medieval and Modern Times, as well as Terminological Issues in Conceptualizing Large-Scale Social Orders in the Ancient Near East respectively); Jeffrey Hudon (The LMLK Storage Jars and the Reign of Uzziah: Towards a Mid-Eighth Century BCE Terminus a Quo for the Royal Jars of the Kingdom of Judah); David Graf (Excavations at Jurash, Asir Province, Saudi Arabia, 2008/9); Larry Herr (This Is the Most Difficult Class I Teach); Gloria London with Robert Shuster (Iron Age II Black Burnished Bowls from the Inside

Out); Bethany Walker (Respondent on the Point Archaeological Expedition to Tell el-Hesi: Reports from the Regional Survey); Reem al-Shquor (The Jalul Islamic Village: 2008-9 Excavations, Madaba Plains Project); Bert de Vries with Paul Christians (Documentation at Umm el-Jimal, Jordan: “Building” a Museum for the 21st Century); and Theodore Burgh (Expression from Tragedy). In addition, Christie Chadwick and Owen Chesnut presented a poster session on Tall Jalul 2009. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Jeffrey Hudon.



Christopher Chadwick.

RANDOM SURVEY

Origins of Civilization?

Archaeologists studying the ancient city of Shengavit, Armenia, have concluded that this area was a highly developed state between 4000-3000 BC, with an exclusive culture that it was the motherland of metallurgy, jewelry, wine-making and horse breeding. Glass beads discovered here are of a higher quality than Egyptian samples at this time. A large number of stone tools have been found in workrooms. The metallurgical evidence seems to indicate that systematized production of copper was established in Armenia.

New Saqqara Tomb Discovered:

Egyptian archaeologists have located the largest tomb yet discovered at necropolis of Saqqara. Filled with skeletons, coffins, and mummified eagles, the tomb dates to the 26th Dynasty (664-525 BC), and extends from a large rock-hewn hall into a number of corridors and small rooms.

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First Century AD House Found in Nazareth:

Archaeologists in Israel have uncovered the remains of the first dwelling in Nazareth believed to date back to the time of Jesus. The remains of a wall, a hideout, and a cistern for collecting rainwater were found. The two-room building and courtyard is modest in size and is probably typical of the houses in Nazareth at that time. The dwelling is located near the present-day Church of the Annunciation, and is believed to have housed a simple Jewish family.

Greek Linothorax Armor:

From ancient descriptions and images it is known that Alexander the Great and his troops wore laminated linen armor. Modern researchers have recreated several sets of linen armor to determine its durability and effectiveness. Experiments have dispelled the myth that armor made out of cloth would have been inferior to other available types. The flexibility of the laminated layers of the fabric would have dispersed the force of incoming arrows.

5,000-Year-old Figurine Found in Turkey:

A Venus figure has been found at excavations being carried out at a Bronze Age site near ancient Troy, in Turkey. This type of figurine was used to represent woman at the time, and was found with a seal with which people used to mark their belongings.

NEWSLETTER



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