

# Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Museum

## NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Number 3

Winter 1980

### HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

### A DECADE OF GROWTH

January 17, 1970 - January 17, 1980

If growth is a sign of success, then no one could dispute the fact that the Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Museum is one of the most successful museums of its kind. In six years it expanded to five times its original size. In three years its new facility in the Library has become so cramped that doubling its quarters now would just hold it comfortably!

More new objects, visiting scholars from all over the U.S. and the world, increased student use, experiments with new ideas in archaeology -- all these things make the Museum a fascinating, even exciting place to be. Who is responsible for all this? Dr. Siegfried H. Horn started the Museum in January 1970 as a result of hundreds of artifacts coming from the first Heshbon Expedition which he had directed. Kathleen Mitchell became the Assistant Curator and did a magnificent job in turning an empty room into exhibits, in cataloguing, and organizing everything. Eugenia Nitowski joined the staff later and became responsible for the design and move into the present Museum. When Dr. Horn retired, Lawrence Geraty became both Curator and Heshbon director, along with already serving as a full time faculty member in the Seminary. The newest member, James Brower, is the genius behind the computer, making it do everything from writing in cuneiform to reconstructing and analyzing the excavation of Heshbon.

Although it has been a decade since our beginning, the time has passed quickly, too quickly. If the next ten years bring an equal amount of activity, the Horn Museum will not simply be one of the best of its kind, but one of the best in the country! (Notice our modesty!)

# TEN DAYS

## TO CELEBRATE TEN YEARS

In honor of the Tenth Anniversary of the Horn Archaeological Museum a special series of events will take place, beginning on Valentine's Day (February 14) with an "I Love the Horn Museum" banquet, with guest Dr. Siegfried Horn. Immediately following, Dr. William G. Dever, Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology at the University of Arizona (excavator of Gezer and past Director of the Albright Institute, Jerusalem, to name a few of his accomplishments) will lecture on "The Ten Most Important Discoveries in Biblical Archaeology in the Last Ten Years." Dr. Carney E.S. Gavin, Curator of the Harvard Semitic Museum, will give two lectures on February 18. Dr. Gavin will also be here working on ancient cylinder seal impressions found on the cuneiform tablets in the Museum's collection. Those interested in American archaeology should take special note of the lectures given by Harold Moll (Feb. 21) on Michigan sites and Clark Hinsdale (Feb. 27) of the famous Koster (Illinois) Indian site. Dr. Dennis Pardee, Associate Professor of Semitic Languages from the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, will give two lectures on February 25. Please consult the "Calendar of Events" on the back page for times and locations. For further information call the Museum Office (616) 471-3273.

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### DIGGING A TELL

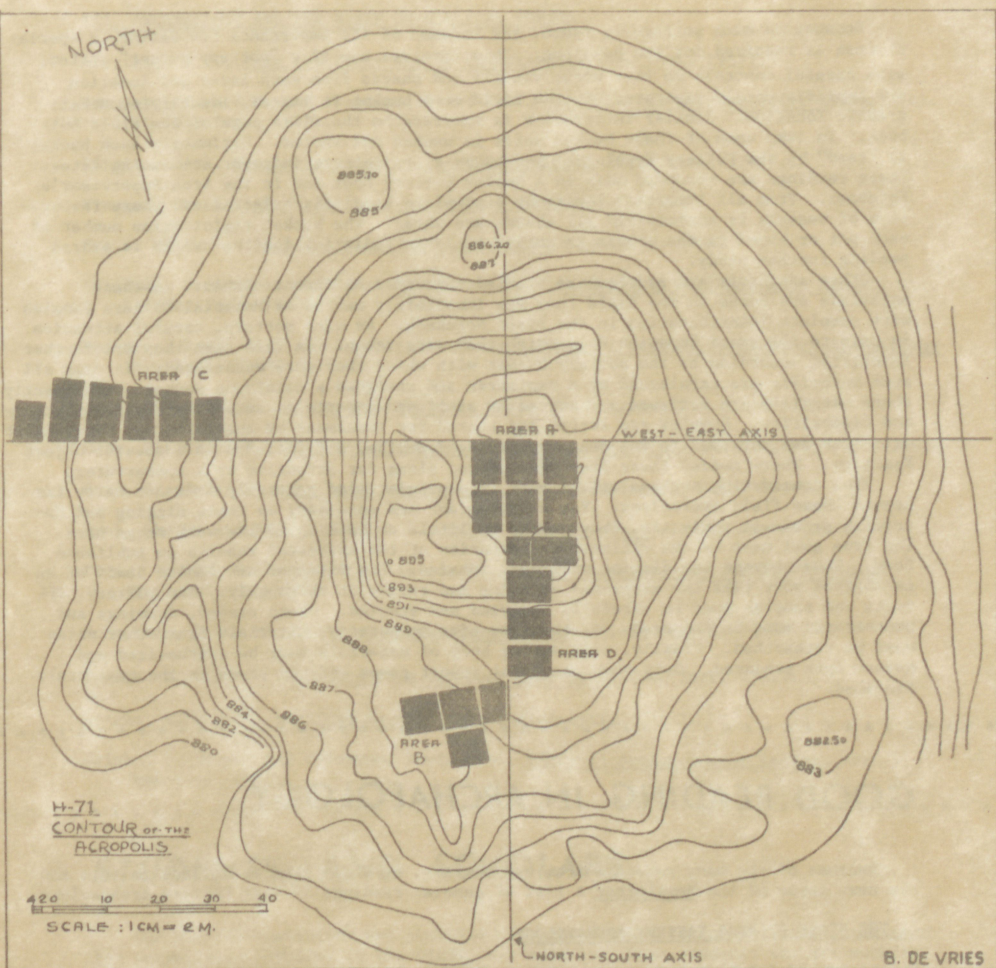
Because the processes by which a tell is formed are complex, the methods by which it is investigated must be careful and deliberate. Digging involves destruction, a fact archaeologists must always hold in mind. Unlike other scientific disciplines where experiments may be repeated until success is achieved, the archaeologist has only one chance to attain his goal, i.e., the maximum recovery of information from and about the site he investigates. During the past century archaeology has matured as a scientific enterprise, growing out of its treasure-hunting infancy. Today, rigorous standards in excavating, recording and interpreting data are practiced.

In Near Eastern sites all excavation work begins with accurate land survey and careful mapping of the topography of a site. Fields and areas for excavation are measured exactly, according to an overall grid system, and each parcel to be dug is accurately plotted on the master site plan. The grid system is thus directly related to the balks (banks of unexcavated dirt) that divide adjacent dig squares or Areas. In the Middle East, the metric system is used for measurements throughout. The standard excavation Area is 5 x 5 meters in size. In the system employed by most American digs, such an Area is the primary unit for controlled excavation and recording.

Supervision of work in a dig Area is a demanding responsibility. An Area Supervisor is charged with the twin tasks of directing workers assigned to the Area, and with seeing that all the proper excavation records are kept. In fulfilling these tasks he must regularly consult with his (or her) Field Supervisor who directs work in the larger Field of which the Area is a part. At the same time he must coordinate efforts with the technical staff (draftsperson, photographer, etc.) and with consultants (e.g., geologists, anthropologists, ceramic typologists, etc.).

The basic principle guiding actual excavation work is that soil layers and other remains be removed and recorded in a way that corresponds as closely as possible to the way in which they were originally deposited. Thus, by careful digging and recording, the goal is to dissect the site into discrete units which later - at least on paper - can be reconstructed and put back together somewhat like reassembling a jigsaw puzzle. However, unlike a puzzle maker (who works with a two-dimensional picture) the excavator must deal with three-dimensional units, parts of which are always below ground and out of sight. Accordingly, digging must proceed under most strict and careful controls so that all significant details can be observed and properly recorded. Thus while diggers do employ larger tools (larger picks and hoes) these are not used to "dig deep," but to loosen and scrape very shallow (two to three centimeter) soil layers. As work requires, these are put aside and replaced by smaller tools, picks, brushes and trowels and at times even by dental tools.





The digging and recording process includes: 1. Daily Note Taking, the Area Supervisor's Notebook with its daily top plan charting all features presently exposed in the Area, and its accompanying daily listing of all pottery baskets and other finds so far discovered. This diary also includes miscellaneous observations concerning the nature of the soil and character of other features being excavated. 2. Architectural Drawing, a draftsman's setup for preparing a stone-by-stone scale drawing of walls and other installations. 3. Section Drawing, a draftsman's setup for preparing a scale drawing of the debris layers represented in the Area's side balks.

Together these procedures provide the basic records for three dimensional reconstruction of the site's stratigraphy. Supplementary data is also supplied by the photographic record which concentrates on special features and details of the architectural remains and artifact finds.

The recording process also pays special attention to the location and association of artifacts and other materials found within the debris and dirt layers. These remains divide themselves into three basic groups: 1. Pottery and potsherds. 2. Other artifacts (including tools and implements, ornaments, cultic objects, etc.). 3. Environmental Samples (including animal bone, stone and soil samples, seeds, etc.).



Because so much pottery is found, and because of its importance for dating, a special process is required for its handling. This involves use of a "pottery bucket" system, with careful controls so that whole vessels and sherds from each layer and location are kept discretely separate. In the field each bucket is tagged, identifying stratigraphic location. Similar information is recorded on the diary page of the Field Notebook. In camp each of these bucket units is washed and sorted. Ultimately each bucket is "read" by the Pottery Typologist who makes a preliminary judgment concerning dates. These readings are recorded both in a Master Pottery Book and in the Area Supervisor's Notebook. From all important locations a complete sample is selected and where restoration of vessels is anticipated all sherds are saved. The bucket registration number of each pot or sherd in the sample is marked on it in India ink and the sample is stored pending further study.

Other artifacts and samples are handled through a different system. As these materials are found in the field they are immediately marked as Material Culture Samples with complete identification in the Field Notebook. As with pottery, careful attention is paid to the exact location from which they were taken. In this case they are further identified according to the pottery bucket with which they were associated. In camp all such materials are catalogued by a registrar and assigned a catalogue number. Subsequently these materials are reviewed and sorted by staff and experts to determine their importance and disposition. Samples are sorted and stored for treatment by specialists. Significant artifacts are returned to the registrar to be described and included in a special Object Registry. Where needed these items are passed along for attention by a conservator.

When considering archaeological work, the popular mind generally does not carry far beyond these field operations. Yet as important and necessary as these digging and recording processes truly are, they amount to little or nothing if the work stops here. The true goal must be the ultimate presentation of the excavated results in published form. Thus, beyond the digging much work remains. The Director and Senior Staff of an excavation must take the excavated evidence and review it thoroughly. The pottery, objects and samples must be carefully analyzed and studied. Where needed, drawings and photographs must be prepared. At the same time comparative materials from other sites must be researched. Finally, this entire body of materials must be synthesized and manuscripts prepared. Only when the final report comes off the press is the task truly finished.

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## GOOD READING IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Because of the many requests from our members, we would like to include in this and the next issue of the Newsletter a list of general readings in Near Eastern Archaeology.

### I. THE STORY OF NEAR EASTERN ARCHAEOLOGY

Bacon, Edward (ed.), The Great Archaeologists (Indianapolis, 1976).

Ceram, C.W., Gods, Graves, and Scholars (New York, 1958).

Parrot, Andre, Discovering Buried Worlds (New York, 1955).

Woolley, Leonard, History Unearthed (London, 1958).

### II. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHOD

Braidwood, Robert J., Archaeologists and What They Do (New York, 1960).

Hammond, Philip C., Archaeological Techniques for Amateurs (Princeton, 1963).

Kenyon, Kathleen M., Beginning in Archaeology (New York, 1961).

Wheeler, Mortimer, Archaeology from the Earth (London, 1954).



### III. ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE OR BIBLICAL PERIOD

- Albright, W.F., From the Stone Age to Christianity (New York, 1957).
- Campbell, Edward F. and Freedman, David Noel, The Biblical Archaeologist Reader, Vol. III (New York, 1970).
- Finegan, Jack, The Archaeology of the New Testament (Princeton, 1969).
- Finegan, Jack, Light from the Ancient Past (Princeton, 1959).
- Frank, Harry T., Bible, Archaeology, and Faith (Nashville, 1971).
- Freedman, David Noel and Campbell, Edward F., The Biblical Archaeologist Reader, Vol. II (New York, 1964).
- Freedman, David Noel and Greenfield, Jonas C., New Directions in Biblical Archaeology (New York, 1969).
- Horn, Siegfried H., Light from the Dust Heaps (Washington, D.C., 1955).
- Horn, Siegfried H., Records of the Past Illuminate the Bible (Washington, D.C., 1963).
- Horn, Siegfried H., The Spade Confirms the Book (Washington, D.C., 1957).
- Paul, Shalom and Dever, William G., Biblical Archaeology (Jerusalem, 1973).
- Price, Ira M.; Sellers, O.R.; Carlson, E.L., The Monuments and the Old Testament (Philadelphia, 1958).
- Schoville, Keith N., Biblical Archaeology in Focus (Grand Rapids, 1978).
- Thomas, D. Winton, Documents from Old Testament Times (New York, 1961).
- Wright, G. Ernest, Biblical Archaeology (Philadelphia, 1962).
- Wright, G. Ernest and Freedman, David Noel, Biblical Archaeologist Reader, Vol. I (New York, 1961).

## STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

The Heshbon Expedition has provided many fascinating topics for study, not only for established scholars in the field, but also for those students who are working on advanced degrees. Bjornar Storfjell, a Doctor of Theology student, is finishing his dissertation on the Byzantine and Early Arabic settlements of Tell Heshban. Wade Kotter has used various groups of artifacts as a special project for his Master's degree. Wade has now gone to the University of Arizona to begin his Ph.D. studies with Dr. William G. Dever. The work of both Storfjell and Kotter will appear in the final publication of Heshbon.

On December 3, 1979, the Museum was pleased to have Dr. Kassem Toueir, Directorate General of Museums and Antiquities of Damascus, Syria as a special guest speaker. His lecture covered the most current work at Ebla (modern Tell Mardikh), and of greatest interest an explanation of the contents of some tablets and the projected date for their translation.

Beginning February 18, Dr. Carney Gavin, Curator of the Harvard Semitic Museum, will be here to finish his project with Dr. Marcel Sigrist of the Ecole Biblique Francaise in Jerusalem. Dr. Gavin is making a study of the cylinder seal impressions which are found on cuneiform tablets in the Museum's collection. The volume being prepared for publication will be a "first" Never before has a detailed study of the texts and of the seals been so carefully performed in a single work. Dr. Gavin will also be lecturing during the Museum's Anniversary Celebration.

## WYMER SITE

Since Spring of 1976, the Horn Archaeological Museum has assisted in the excavation of a local Indian site under the direction of Robert M. Little, anthropologist and chemist. The work was originally begun to train students for work in the Middle East, but it proved to be such an interesting and fruitful site, that excavation has continued. Weather has been the dominant factor in slowing the digging. Now the proposed location of the new U.S. 31 highway will come dangerously close to the ancient hunting camp. According to Robert Little, the excavation must be completed the Summer of 1980. Little will soon begin working in the Museum on the publication of the materials unearthed and reconstructing the site's history. Only recently, Dr. Elizabeth Garland, from Western Michigan University, has joined Little in the excavation of the site. Dr. Garland is the director of a special team surveying sites which may be endangered by the construction of the new road.

All too often ancient sites which are in the area of new construction are sacrificed because their examination by trained professionals would mean a delay in building. Each year, past remains are destroyed for the sake of time schedules and a valuable part of history is lost forever. Equally as bad are the weekend "pot-hunters," the looters responsible for pulling artifacts out of their original context, making the pieces worthless to future study. For those who wish to stop such damage we suggest that whenever artifacts are spotted, contact the local museum or Department of Anthropology/Archaeology of the nearest university and report the finding. Only in this way can our past be saved throughout the future.



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If you have comments or questions for the Newsletter write to the Museum:

Horn Archaeological Museum  
Andrews University  
Berrien Springs, Michigan 49104

or call (616) 471-3273



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## FEBRUARY:

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM AND ART CENTERS, Coral Gables, FL: "Peru's Golden Treasures" (until Feb 11), displays 225 examples of rare Precolumbian goldwork including masks, beakers, figurines and jewelry, spanning nearly 2,000 years and representing the pre-Inca cultures of Vicus, Nazca, Moche and Chimu. Also included are associated exhibits of Peruvian textiles and pottery.

KELSEY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI: "Faces of Immortality: Egyptian Mummy Masks, Painted Portraits and Canopic Jars in the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology" (until Feb 17), features Roman period painted plaster mummy masks and painted Fayum portraits illustrating their link to the Dynastic Ptolemaic traditions of portraiture.

HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI: "Ten Days to Celebrate Ten Years" (series of events), Feb 14, 6pm, Banquet with special guest speakers (tickets \$5); Feb 14, 8pm, Lecture: "The 10 Most Important Discoveries in Biblical Archaeology in the Last 10 Years" William Dever (in Seminary Chapel); Feb 18, 10:30am, Lecture: "Unveiling the Ancient East: Camera Pioneers and the Earliest Accurate Images of the Holy Land" Carney Gavin (in Seminary Chapel); Feb 18, 8pm, Lecture: "Recent Developments in Mesopotamian Archaeology: Babylon, Assyria, Harvard, and Andrews" Carney Gavin (in Seminary Chapel); Feb 21, 8pm, Lecture: "The Pallisaded Indian Village (Forts) of Michigan" Harold Moll (in Horn Museum); Feb 25, 10:30am, Lecture: "Extra-Biblical Hebrew Letters from Palestine" Dennis Pardee (in Seminary Chapel); Feb 25, 8pm, Lecture: "Fifty Years of Ugarit and the Bible, 1929-1979" Dennis Pardee (in Seminary Chapel); Feb 27, 8pm, Lecture: "Archaeology of the Koster (Illinois) Indian Site" Clark Hinsdale (in Horn Museum).

## INDEFINITE:

JEWISH MUSEUM, New York, NY: "Out of Egypt" presents objects from the Museum's collection illustrating Jewish life in Egypt after the Exodus of Biblical times. Featured are Egyptian scarabs excavated in the Holy Land; a wooden geniza ark; fragments of Coptic fabrics; and Damascene plates and bowls inlaid with silver and other precious metals.

HIGH MUSEUM OF ART, Atlanta, GA: "The William and Robert Arnett Collection of Chinese Jade," features jade dating from the Neolithic to the 19th century as well as ceramics dating from the 10th century, and Chinese paintings and costumes.

## PERMANENT:

CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM, Cincinnati, OH: "New Acquisitions," displays a recently acquired terracotta "lip cup" dating to 565-550 B.C. and a red-figure kylix (two-handled cup) dating to ca. 480 B.C., a Corinthian plate dated to ca. 580 B.C., and a group of Cycladic figures made 4000 years ago.

INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM OF ART, Indianapolis, IN: "Reinstallation of the Oriental Galleries," displays the Museum's collection of Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Korean, and Southeast Asian material. Featured are examples of Chinese ceramics, bronzes and textiles from the Neolithic through the 13th century B.C.; the 250 piece Shreve Collection of Chinese jade; and Indian sculptures and textiles, and Southeast Asian sculptures.

PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS, Santa Fe, NM: "The Rio Grande World," several hundred artifacts illustrating cultural development in the Northern Rio Grande Valley from the Palaeo-Indian (ca. 10000 B.C.) through the Anasazi (A.D. 1600) periods.