



## INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY  
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM  
NEWSLETTER

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Summer 1992

### Madaba Plains Project 1992

The Madaba Plains Project (MPP) concluded its fifth season of research on July 28. 85 archaeologists, students, and specialists worked for about six weeks on what has become one of Jordan's oldest and largest archaeological teams. From its outset, the MPP has been sponsored by the American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR) and the Madaba Plains Project consortium of colleges and universities in the US and Canada. The MPP is currently composed of three related projects: the Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri excavation, the Hinterland survey, and the Tell Jalul excavation.


At Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri, impressive remains of the site's Iron Age defenses were excavated under the direction of Larry G. Herr. In these excavations, a casemate wall was found protected by an earthen rampart and held in place above a dry moat by a retaining wall. Dramatic evidence of a fiery destruction during the Iron I period was uncovered at the casemate and elsewhere. Within the walled summit, a number of large, monumental houses were found (together with their typical assemblages of clay pots, stone implements, and other artifacts). On the southern slope of the mound, excavation continued in the Early Bronze II/III domestic structures.

The project's Hinterland survey under the supervision of Øystein S. LaBianca investigated cycles of intensification in landuse and settlement. Methods included an *environmental survey* which focused on reconstructing changes over time in the physical landscape. *Ethno-archaeological research* examined the processes of sedentarization and nomadization at both the household and village level. The *archaeological survey*

aimed at documenting changes over time in settlement and landuse.

Two of the most interesting aspects of the survey included excavation of a typical Early Bronze IV/early Middle Bronze tomb. The tomb produced several large ceramic pots and metal implements. At Khirbet Rufeisah (near Yadudah), a cave was discovered with an unusual inscription. The inscription (1.5 m high and 16 m long) contains some 1000 alphabetic letters, tribal marks, and pictures (mostly in the early Arabic dialects of Thamudic and Safaitic). This find promises to be important for the study of Jordan's early Arab tribes (see additional story page 4).

This season marks the first season of excavation at Tell Jalul. The tell is the largest and most centrally located site in the Madaba Plains area. It promises to be a key in better understanding the socio-historical development of central Jordan. The team there was under the direction of Randall W. Younker.

For hundreds of years, Tell Jalul has been used by local residents as a burial site. A total of 19 Turkish graves were excavated in the process of seeking earlier strata. In addition, team members identified eight field phases. Of greatest interest were two superimposed Iron II period pavements. These pavements consisted of large flagstones, possibly part of a paved approach ramp to the city gate. Retaining walls are preserved upslope. Abundant ash suggests a massive destruction of the late Iron I settlement, but definite occupational levels from this important site await excavation. The next field season for the MPP is planned for 1994. (Lawrence T. Geraty) 



# CALLING ALL

1993 is the 25th Anniversary of the first season of excavation at Tell Hesban. Few of our readers may have participated in that very first season, but many readers partici-



'68

XX



'71

## 1968-1976 TELL HESBAN EXPEDITION PARTICIPANTS (Alphabetically)

Sami Abadi, Sabri Abbadi, Arif Abul-Ghannim, Mohammed Adawi, Merling Alomia, Charles Armistead, Mary Bachmann, Kim Baker, Raymond Banks, Emmet A. Barnes, Kaye Barton, James R. Battenfield, Dewey Beegle, Marion Beegle, Geoffrey Belton, Paul Belton, Esther Benton, Barbara Bergsma, Paul Bergsma, Phyllis Bird, Ghazi Bisheh, B. Michael Blaine, Joachim Boessneck, Jack B. Bohannon, Paul Bonney, Aina E. Boraas, Miriam Boraas, Roger S. Boraas, Glenn Bowen, Andrew Bowling, Kerry Branstater, Suzanne Brandstater, James Brashler, Lenore Brashler, Paul Brohl, Robin M. Brown, Reuben Bullard, Keith Bulthuis, Elisabeth G. Burr, Pamela Butterworth, Loren Calvert, Donald Casebolt, Mary Ann Casebolt, Theodore Chamberlain, Benjamin C. Chapman, Judy Chapman, Marilyn Chapman, Douglas R. Clark, Vincent Clark, John Coughenour, Robert Coughenour, James Cox, Robin Cox, Patricia Crawford, Mika Damanik, Omar Daoud, John J. Davis, Abdel Samia Abu Dayya, Bert de Vries, Trevor Delafield, Paul H. Denton, Patricia Derbeck, Avery Dick, Margaret Ditemore, Richard Dorsett, Carl H. Dropper, Adelma Downing, Anna Eaton, Stephen Emmel, Paul Evans, Mary Fenske, Remie Fenske, Gerald Finneman, Shirley Finneman, Lillian A. Foster, Theresa Fuentes, Douglas Fuller, Carney E. S. Gavin, Lawrence T. Geraty, Ronald Geraty, Sheila Geraty, Samir Ghishan, Andy Glasbergen, Jelmer Groenewold, Ed Grohman, Sarah Grohman, Jennifer Groot, Rose Habaybeh, Rahib Hadid, Susan A. Hamilton, P. Edgar Hare, Dorothea Harvey, Ibrahim Hajj Hasan, Gerhard F. Hasel, Larry G. Herr, Ralph O. Hjelm, Marvin Hoekstra, Kathy Hoekstra, B. Charlene Hogsten, Siegfried H. Horn, Elisabeth Horner, Inge-Lise Howse, Kevin Howse, Elaine Hutte, Robert D. Ibach, Taysir Islim, Harold James, Norman Johnson, Zeidan Kafafi, G. Arthur Keough, Mohammad Murshed Khadija, Nabil Khairy, Kenneth Knutsen,



Plan now to be on the campus of



# HESHBONITES!

pated in one or more subsequent seasons. How many people can you recognize from the following season photographs? (The list of expedition personnel may be helpful.)



'76



'74

## MORE 1968-1976 TELL HESBAN EXPEDITION PARTICIPANTS

Lorrie Knutsen, Ann O. Koloski, Andrew Kramer, Henry Kuhlman, Asta S. LaBianca, Øystein S. LaBianca, Henry Lamberton, Lori LaValley, John Lawlor, Chris Leys, Wayne Leys, Robert Little, Melissa Lloyd, Robert Lloyd, Scott Longacre, John Lorntz, Frank Lounsberry, Lynn Malvitz, Richard C. Mannell, Myra Mare, W. Harold Mare, Mervyn Maxwell, Sissy May, Paul Meier, David Merling, Bonita Meyer, Marvin Meyer, Julia Middleton, Joyce Miller, Larry Mitchel, Kathleen Mitchell, Carol Moerman, Mogahed Mohaisin, Ali Musa, Orlyn Nelson, Julia Neuffer, Eugenia L. Nitowski, Mohammed Odeh, Nola Opperswaal, Lutfi Ostah, S. Thomas Parker, Sheri Pauw, Paul Perkins, David Piper, Eunice Post, Philip J. Post, Nabil Salim Qadi, Hussein Qandil, Ghassan Ahmad el-Ramahi, John Reeves, Douglas Robertson, Scott Rolston, Gary Roozeboom, Mahmoud Rusan, Lina Sa'adi, Daniel Salzmänn, Elizabeth C. Sanford, Seleh Sari, James A. Sauer, Susan Sauer, Catherine Schilperoort, Eric C. Schilperoort, Adeb Abu Schmais, Patricia Schmidt, Oscar Schultz, Siegfried Schwantes, Helen Shafer, William H. Shea, Oscar Shultz, Timothy Shultz, Timothy Smith, Peter Soderman, Arthur Spenst, Douglas J. Stek, Lois Stetler, Richard Stetler, Marilyn Stickle, Wayne Stiles, James H. Stirling, Ralph Stirling, Bjornar Storfjell, Margit Suring, Merryanna Swartz, Marilyn Tanis, Mustafa Tawfiq, Abraham Terian, George Terzibashian, Henry Thompson, Hester Thomsen, Peter Thorne, Leonard P. Tolhurst, Michael Toplyn, Alvin Trace, Mitchell Tyner, Patricia Tyner, William Urbrock, David Undeland, George Unger, George van Arragon, Anita Van Elderen, Bastiaan Van Elderen, Vivolyn Van Elderen, Paul Vance, Angela von den Driesch, Thomas Walters, Wesley Walters, Douglas Waterhouse, Carl Wheat, Kerry Wiessmann, Donald H. Wimmer, Mary Witt, John W. Wood, Udo Worschech, Nathaniel Yen, Omar Yunis, James H. Zachary, Fawzi Zayadin.



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Larry G. Herr, Dorothy Irvin, Øystein S. LaBianca, and Hanan Azar stand in front of the Old South Arabic graffiti, dated between the first and fourth centuries AD.

## Pre-Islamic Graffiti Found

A South Arabic inscription dating from the first to fourth century AD came to light recently in an abandoned cistern south of Amman, at Khirbet Rufeisah (near Yadudah). This is the largest of its kind ever found. The announcement comes from the archaeological survey team headed by Øystein S. LaBianca of Andrews University, and Gary Christopherson, a graduate student at the University of Arizona.

The cistern containing the unique inscription was first entered by survey members Hana Azer of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities and Dorothy Irvin, an ethnologist with the Madaba Plains Project. Both were astounded at the size and type of this monumental Old South Arabic inscription, and at its location, much farther west than is common for the Safitic and Thamudic scripts.


Generally, such inscriptions are

quite short, 2-to-5 words in length and contain 6-to-12 characters, while this inscription contains an estimated 1,000 or more characters. In addition to alphabetic characters, the inscription also contains a number of artistic scenes, including an armed horseman.

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"Its causing us to re-evaluate the nature of Palestinian society at the time of Christ."  
- LaBianca

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
The inscription has not yet been read. The cave is being excavated by the Department of Antiquities. Scholars from Jordan, Europe and the United States are being invited to study the inscriptions. (*Jordan Times* July 30-31, 1992). [Editor's note: LaBianca will give an updated report on this inscription and the cave during a Horn Museum Lecture on Feb 8, 1993.] 

## Calendar


- Sep 29 Museum Reopens for the academic year.
- Oct 12 Bryant Wood lecture: "Israel in the Late Bronze Age." Class lectures the following day.
- Oct 26 Randall W. Younker lecture: "Tell Jalul: The First Season."
- Nov 18-24 Year-end Meetings San Francisco.
- Feb 8, 1993 Øystein S. LaBianca lecture: "A Pre-Islamic Cave: Written Treasures from the Time of Christ."
- Mar 20-21, 1993 Heshbon 25th Anniversary celebration.

calendar calendar calendar calendar calendar calendar

## MPP Gives Birth!

Excavation at Tell Jawa, for two seasons in consortium with the Madaba Plains Project, now stands completely independent. Under the continuing direction of Wilfrid Laurier University professor P. M. M. Daviau, Tell Jawa completed its third field season this summer. Congratulations! 

## Short Notes

Work continued in the institute during the dig season. Toni A. Stemple of the publications department archived photographs from the 1987 and 1989 MPP field seasons. This involved printing and collating over one thousand black-and-white negatives. Chang-ho Ji, assistant to the curator, worked steadily on the Gitin Sherd Collection inventory. Rujitsa Gregor provided excellent secretarial support in the absence of Trudy Stokes on-site at the dig. 



## Institute Supports Ekron Dig


In a recent letter thanking the institute for its support of the Tel Migne-Ekron 1992 field season, co-director Seymour Gitin included a brief report of the summer's finds.

Staff and volunteers numbering 119 from 9 countries participated in the continuing excavation of Tel Migne. This site has been identified as "Ekron," one of the five major Philistine cities mentioned in the Bible.


This season's excavations were highlighted by the discovery of a cache of 77 silver pieces weighing a total of 2 pounds. The silver, hidden in a jug which was itself nestled inside another vessel, may have been cached just prior to the Babylonian siege in 603 BC.

Dating from the same period, a separate discovery from a different place on the site included 31 pieces of jewelry hidden in the hole of a perforated stone weight. The jewelry included a ring inscribed with hieroglyphics, and a silver medallion with a religious scene.

Following the initial prosperity of Ekron about 1200 BC, the city fell into decline around 1000 BC. It experienced growth in the 7th century BC, but was never resettled after its destruction by the Babylonians in 603 BC.

Andrews University, through the institute, is now a "supporting" organization for the Tel Migne-Ekron project. By associating with a number of other institutes and foundations, AU now has the opportunity to provide archaeological field experience for students who might be unable to participate in the Madaba Plains Project. (S. Gitin) 

## Geraty Reports to Community

On Sept 22, Lawrence T. Geraty presented the "1992 Madaba Plains Project Field Season" report to about 80 community and campus listeners. During his illustrated lecture, Geraty covered the MPP's Tell Hesban expedition "roots" and detailed the archaeological process using slides taken this past summer at Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri, Tell Jalul, and the Hinterland survey. Following the lecture, a reception hosted by David and Stephanie Merling provided an opportunity to meet with Dr. Geraty informally. During his two-day visit on the AU campus, MPP Senior Director Geraty conducted dig business, and presented both classroom and public lectures. (Ralph Hendrix) 

## AL-MAKTÁBA

THE BOOKSTORE

### Tell Hesban

- ☐ *Hesban 1: Sedentarization and Nomadization* (LaBianca, 1991; 373 pp., cloth) at \$49.95 each (plus s/h).
- ☐ *Hesban 2: Environmental Foundations* (LaBianca and Lacelle, 1990; 184 pp., cloth) at \$49.95 each (plus s/h).
- ☐ *Hesban 3: Historical Foundations* (Geraty and Running, 1989; 107 pp., cloth) at \$49.95 each (plus s/h).
- ☐ *Hesban 5: Archaeological Survey* (Ibach, 1987; 314 pp., cloth) at \$49.95 each (plus s/h).

### Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri

- ☐ *MPP 1: The 1987 Season at Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri* (Geraty, et al, 1989; 630 pp., cloth) **REDUCED TO** \$49.95 each (plus s/h).
- ☐ *MPP 2: The 1989 Season at Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri* (Herr, et al, 1991; 633 pp., cloth) at \$49.95 each (plus s/h).

### Museum Items

- ☐ Mural Slide Set (57 slides) tells the Bible story with HAM objects in the paintings! Includes booklet. Just \$50.00 each (plus s/h).
- ☐ I want to subscribe to the *Newsletter* at just \$7.50 per year.
- ☐ No, I haven't forgotten the Institute of Archaeology Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Here is my address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Shipping and Handling will be billed at actual cost)



# R A N D O M   S U R V E Y

## MUSEUM Reopens for Academic Year

The Horn Museum will resume regular service hours Sept 29.

### *Hours:*

Mon-Thurs: 8:30-12:00/1:00-5:00  
Friday: 8:30-12:00

(Closed Academic Holidays)

The Paul Ray, Jr. family has returned to AU after teaching several years at Bugema College in Uganda. Paul, Barbara, and their son (Zachy), welcomed the recent birth of daughter, Rebecca, earlier in August. Paul will continue doctoral studies in Old Testament/Archaeology and will help out at the museum.

Curatorial assistant Chang-ho Ji continues busily accessioning about 200 excavated objects allocated to the museum by the Jordanian Department of Antiquities following the 1989 dig season.

### *NOVEMBER MEETINGS.*

Institute personnel, university faculty, and archaeology/biblical studies/anthropology professionals from around the world will convene in San Francisco, Nov. 18-24. Hundreds of scholarly papers and reports will be given during the week of meetings. Scores of societies annually hold their meetings in conjunction with the Society of Biblical Literature/American Academy of Religions (SBL/AAR) which sponsors the convention. Of particular interest are the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) meetings. The Madaba Plains Project personnel also gather together to conduct project business. Many personnel will read scholarly papers and participate in panel discussions. The findings of the recent MPP field season will be announced during several reports on various phases on the project. Look for a brief report of the convention in the next newsletter.

### **Museum Tours**

Group and individual tours may be scheduled for Tues-Wed-Thurs of each week. Arrangements for a tour may be made by contacting the museum office during business hours.

### **Write:**

Horn Museum  
Andrews University  
Berrien Springs, MI  
49104-0990

### **Or call:**

616/471-3273

Doctoral student Zeljko Gregor continues work on the organization of the Horn Library. Library of Congress (LC) labels are currently being placed on the books by the first of the year. About 50% of the books will be so identified. This will greatly facilitate the use of the library.

# N E W S L E T T E R



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