



## INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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### Symposium a Success

On March 20-21, 1993 a group of 19 scholars gathered on the campus of Andrews University to celebrate and reflect on the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the Heshbon Expedition. Participants of "Tell Hesban After 25 Years: Continuity and Change on the Madaba Plains of Jordan" represented thirteen institutions from three countries and eight states.

The presenters and their topics, in the order of their presentations, were: Lawrence T. Geraty, "Tell Hesban in Context—Why We Dig"; Randall W. Younker, "Hesban and Its Location—Broad Significance"; James R. Fisher, "Hesban and the Ammonites During the Iron Age"; David Merling, "The Pools of Heshbon: As Discovered by the Heshbon Expedition"; Elizabeth E. Platt, "What Objects Were Found at Tell Hesban?"; Robert D. Ibach, Jr., "Two Roads Lead to Esbus"; Douglas Waterhouse, "The Roman and Byzantine Cemeteries"; Larry A. Mitchel, "Hesban Underground: Caves and Storage Facilities of Hellenistic and Early Roman Times"; Bastiaan Van Elderen, "Tell Hesban's Contribution to the Study of Early Christianity in Transjordan"; John I. Lawlor, "The Historical/Archaeological Significance of the Hesban North Church"; J. Bjornar Storfjell, "The Byzantine Setting of Hesban"; Bert de

Vries, "The Mamluk Town (Caravan-serai, Bath, Mosque)"; Roger S. Boraas, "Hesban and Field Method—How We Dug and Why"; Øystein S. LaBianca, "Hesban and the Scope of Research—the Transformation of the Project Design"; James A. Sauer, "The Pottery of Tell Hesban"; Lawrence T. Geraty, "The Ammonite Ostraca"; Lawrence T. Geraty and Øystein S. LaBianca, "Hesban Today ... and Tomorrow". A special guest at the symposium was Dr. Safwan Kh. Tell, Director-general of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan. He opened the symposium with an address titled, "The Contributions of American-sponsored Excavations in Jordan."

An evening banquet was held honoring Siegfried H. Horn. At the banquet, Walter E. Rast, a vice president of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), brought greetings from ASOR honoring Horn and the excavations he founded. Those at the banquet were also privileged to hear Horn present, "How it all Began—The Early History of the Heshbon Archaeological Expedition."

In addition to being a reunion for Hesban workers, the weekend symposium was really part of a larger community-centered project, making the community more aware of archaeology and its role of interpreting past civilizations. Among the activities were visits to local community service clubs and schools. Because of its broad ranging goals, the Michigan Humanities Council co-sponsored the event by underwriting about 40% of the project's budget—a grant of nearly \$12,000. (David Merling)




Horn and Andrews University president W. Richard Leshner had the opportunity to reminisce about decades of university support for archaeological research.

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY  
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM  
NEWSLETTER

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Ralph E. Hendrix Mng. Editor

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## Congratulations from the DAJ

I have come to express my great appreciation and gratitude to all my friends from Tell Hesban and the Madaba Plains Project. Andrews University has organized the Madaba Plains Project, which is one of the major expeditions in Jordan. In addition to the previous work at Tell Hesban, which we are celebrating in this symposium, Tell el-Umeiri has been excavated since 1984. Just this past year, I authorized Andrews University to begin excavations at Tell Jalul which is one of the largest sites for which permission has been given to conduct archaeological excavation. Andrews University has a superior method of scientific archaeology, including dynamic publication goals. The Andrews University publications will one day cover every major aspect of Jordan's history. This symposium (and in reality, all archaeological research) creates a splendid opportunity to explore the past. Archaeological efforts should serve as a platform for an understanding between Americans and the Arab world. I hope that this understanding will bring the prospect of a permanent peace to a reality. 



Safwan Kh. Tell, Director-general of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, reviews a recent publication in the Horn Library as Institute director Randall Younker looks on.



Eighteen papers and a keynote address brought listeners up-to-date on Tell Hesban. Hesbon Expedition chief archaeologist Roger S. Boraas described the development in field methodology over 25 years during his presentation.

Visitors and presenters had the opportunity to examine the Horn Museum displays during the symposium weekend. Director-general Safwan Kh. Tell also had the occasion to inspect the display and storage facilities where so many artifacts from Jordan find their permanent housing.



Museum Curator David Merling, Director-general Safwan Kh. Tell, and Andrews University President W. Richard Leshar had an opportunity to re-affirm their commitment to archaeological cooperation.



# Heshbonites Celebrate

*The Heshbon Expedition 25th Anniversary: 1968-1993*

Participants included (front row) Randall Younker, Siegfried Horn, Safwan Tell, Lawrence Geraty, Larry Mitchel, James Fisher; (second row) Walter Rast, Roger Boraas, Douglas Waterhouse, Robert Ibach, Elizabeth Platt, Bjornar Storfjell; (back row) Bastiaan Van Elderen, David Merling, Bert de Vries, James Sauer, John Lawlor, and Øystein LaBianca.

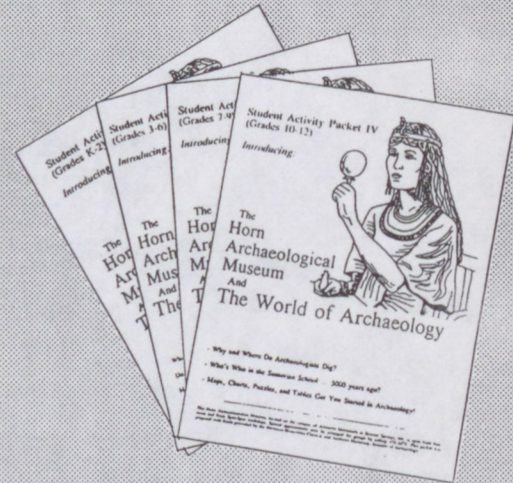


Presenters who are preparing final formal reports were able to use the symposium as a planning workshop. Tell Hesban ceramicist, James A. Sauer used his presentation as a forum for refining his views on Hesban pottery and stratigraphy, including, tentatively associating the Iron Age reservoir with Solomonic construction.




North Church excavator John I. Lawlor took a few minutes out to survey the display of stamped jar handles on view in the museum. On display were many Hesban artifacts which are part of the permanent exhibit. Visitors and presenters, alike, enjoyed viewing pieces they had personally excavated.

An evening dinner provided Andrews University administrators with opportunity to meet with Director-general Tell. (L-to-R: SDA Seminary Dean Werner Vyhmeister, Arts and Sciences Dean Mailen Kootsey, Provost Arthur Coetzee, Director-general Safwan Tell, University President Richard Leshar, Academic Vice President Delmer Davis.)



## Community Visits

One of the goals of the anniversary celebration was to increase public understanding of other cultures. In addition to reading their symposium papers, nine presenters visited thirteen schools, service clubs, and organizations. Especially targeted were local schools. Children learned about life in the Middle East and the science of archaeology. Classroom activity packets were provided for each of the four targeted school grade levels: K-2, 3-6, 7-9, and 10-12. These packets enabled teachers to continue teaching students about archaeology, but the most impressive thing about the visits were the face-to-face interaction. For example, Elizabeth Platt dressed in costume for her presentation to a local elementary school. She brought with her artifacts from the Horn Museum so that students had the opportunity to handle objects over 2000 years old. (Laura M. Bredall) 



## *Hesban After 25 Years Nears Completion*

Eighteen authors have contributed to what may become a classic archaeological resource: *Hesban After 25 Years*. Covering how the dig was planned, its execution, finds, and post-season analysis, the book presents many insights and interpretations which are unavailable in any other resource.

Edited by David Merling and Lawrence T. Geraty, and published by the Horn Museum, *Hesban After 25 Years* presents five categories of information: introductory, background, periodization, specialized studies, and summation. The volume is derived from papers presented during the *Heshbon Expedition XXV<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium Celebration* hosted by the Horn Museum and Andrews University in cooperation with the Michigan Humanities Council. Publication is expected in late fall 1993.

The Heshbon Expedition took to the field in 1968 and provided a laboratory for the birth, growth, and development of technological multi-disciplinary methodology. Twenty-two papers tap into this perspective and encompass three generations of scholars sharing over a quarter century of archaeological expertise.

This impressive softbound volume of over 350 pages includes a veritable "who's who" of authoritative participants of the dig and also involved are many whose contribution to the understanding of the world of Tell Hesban are post-season excavation.

Special congratulations are presented by Walter Rast on behalf of ASOR. A commemorative paper is included from Safwan Kh. Tell, Director-general of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.


Siegfried Horn includes personal insights on choosing the site, expectations, the disappointment of postponing the first season (which was supposed to have been the summer of 1967), forming the dig team, and many details unavailable elsewhere.

Roger Boraas describes the field methodology both within the context of the late 1960's and from a current perspective. Øystein LaBianca pictures the maturation of the dig's theoretical methodology from seeds in the original research plan.

Lawrence Geraty's discussion of Hesban/Heshbon, Randall Younker's geographical study, and Robert Ibach's analysis of the road system provide broad answers to the "who,

what, when, where" questions. Periodization studies include James Fisher (Ammonites in the Iron Age), Larry Mitchel (Hellenistic and Early Roman), Bjornar Storfjell (Byzantine and Early Islamic), John Lawlor (North Church), Bastiaan Van Elderen (Byzantine Christianity and mosaics), and Bert de Vries (Ayyubid/ Mamluk). Specialized studies are provided by Lawrence Geraty (Ammonite ostraca), Ralph Hendrix (small finds), Øystein LaBianca (everyday life), David Merling (water installations), Elizabeth Platt (processing small finds), James Sauer (pottery), and Douglas Waterhouse (tombs). Geraty and LaBianca team up to provide a look at Hesban and the future.

Illustrations consist of plans, drawings, summary tables, and photographs. The combined bibliography may provide the most complete source for Hesban and related studies available to date. Included is an inclusive participant/donor list and a comprehensive index.

Pre-publication orders are being taken now. Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to get this one-volume resource. (Ralph E. Hendrix) 

## AL-MAKTÁBA

THE BOOKSTORE

### *Hesban After 25 Years*

☐ Special "first printing" price of just \$15.00 (postpaid in the US).

### Slides! Slides! Slides!

☐ Tell Hesban Slide set recounts the Tell Hesban Expedition—1968-1976. \$49.95 per set (+ \$2.50 shipping)

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☐ I want to subscribe to the *Newsletter* at just \$7.50 per year.

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

# RANDOM SURVEY

Congratulations are in order! Jennifer Groves completed her M.A. (OT Studies) classwork. She continues her studies in the fall when she enrolls at the University of Arizona pursuant to a doctoral degree in archaeology. Toni Stemple completed her B.S. Behavioral Science (Anthropology) and looks forward to a position in museum work. Jennifer and Toni have worked in the Institute for five years each and have participated in Institute-sponsored excavations. Best Wishes!

## Ready to DIG?

Call or FAX us for the 1994 Dig Application

*"Join the Team ... Live the Adventure!"*

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US  
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471  
3619

From:  
the MHC Evaluation

"Overall, I found that the goals of the project have been very successfully attained. The project staff have made a fine beginning in alerting the public to the outstanding work that has been done in the Madaba Plains. Children in local schools should have a new found interest in and excitement about archaeology and the Mideast. Moreover, they should have an increased awareness of Andrew University's role in fostering goodwill and cooperation in that part of the world. In the wake of the Gulf War and the significance of the Mideast in the "global village", it is more important than ever that all of us become educated about the histories of the ancient Near East."

### Rotary speech yields article

An article entitled "Archaeology rarely of Indiana Jones variety, expert says" in the *Niles Daily Star* by Bryan Laviolette recapped a speech by David Merling to the Niles-Buchanan Rotary Club which was part of the Symposium community outreach emphasis.

The Horn Museum wishes to particularly acknowledge the munificence of Elly H. Economou who graciously provided a dinner for the Symposium participants.

# NEWSLETTER



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