



## INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY  
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM  
NEWSLETTER

Ralph E. Hendrix Editor  
David Merling Assc. Editor  
Randall W. Younker Assc. Editor  
Laura M. Bredall Mng. Editor

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### Zaben Studies Jalul Pottery

In the summer of 1993, Ms. Sabal es-Zaben came to the Institute as a visiting scholar to analyze the pottery from the 1992 season at Tell Jalul. This research will be the basis of her M.A. thesis at the University of Jordan where she is majoring in Archaeology.

Because the Jalul region is the home of her family, her interest in excavations at Tell Jalul and its surrounding area springs as much from her personal background as it does from her career choice. Sabal is from the Zaben branch of the influential Beni Sakhr tribe and her grandfather's house can still be seen today in the village of Jalul not far from the tell. Her father, General Achash es-Zaben (ret.) is the former Jordanian Defense Minister and owns an estate east of the site. He is also the major owner of the tell itself. The Zaben country estate, which is quite lush in contrast to much of the surrounding area, gives an indication of how productive the land probably was in antiquity.

The Zaben family has had a long-standing interest in archaeology. General Zaben, in his official capacity as representative of the Jordanian government, accompanied G. L. Harding and Roland deVaux in their work at Khirbet Qumran and the Dead Sea Scroll caves prior to 1967. Subsequently, he has shown much interest in the work at Tell Hesban and is a generous supporter of the work at Tell Jalul. It is through her father's involvement that Ms. Zaben became interested in archaeology.

Ms. Zaben enjoyed her one month stay in Michigan. She was especially impressed with the greenness and amount of water here—both provide striking contrast to her homeland. Although she was able to visit the museums in Chicago, she spent most of

her time working diligently on her project. Upon completion of her pottery analysis, Ms. Zaben returned to Jordan to complete the final year of her master's program. She anticipates joining the Tell Jalul team for the 1994 season. (Paul J. Ray Jr.)



### Administrative Cuts Hit Institute

When the Institute staff returns from the dig this summer, it will return a leaner organization. Andrews University cutbacks have forced the reduction of the Institute administrative secretary to a halftime position.

Our single secretary has long provided assistance to the director and curator for their Seminary Old Testament/Archaeology class loads and routine Institute/Museum business. In addition, office tasks have greatly expanded over the past years as the Institute has accepted increased responsibilities over the stateside operation of the Madaba Plains Project. The Publications Department, while primarily responsible for its own office needs, has contributed to the secretarial load. Given such a workload, a cutback is ironic at best.

Needless to say, this reduction to a halftime administrative secretary will likely result in reduced services and increased response times. For example, it is probable that the Museum exhibit hours will be reduced to half-days when classes resume. We hope to reorganize secretarial tasks as efficiently as possible, but under the circumstances, certain inconveniences are doubtlessly unavoidable. We ask your indulgence as we move ahead into this new situation. (Ralph E. Hendrix)






## NANCY LAPP LECTURES

On Monday May 9, Nancy Lapp, curator of the James L. Kelso Bible Lands Museum at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, gave an illustrated lecture entitled "Excavations on the Dead Sea Plain, 1990" for the Horn Museum Lecture Series. A history of her involvement with the Early Bronze sites and cemeteries of the Dead Sea Plain and northern <sup>c</sup>Araba prefaced an in-depth report on recent work in this area. Particular attention was given to the Iron Age town of Feifeh and the Early Bronze Age cemeteries at that site and at Khanazir.

In 1924, Mallon, Albright and Kyle discovered the town of Bab edh-Dhra<sup>c</sup>. Paul Lapp made soundings at the site in 1965 and excavated the cemetery to its south in 1965-67. Bab edh-Dhra<sup>c</sup> (1979-81) and Num-eira (1977-83) were dug by Walter Rast and Thomas Schaub.

The 1989-90 season at Feifeh (Rast and Schaub) concentrated on the town site (an Iron II fortress) and the cemetery with the cist tombs. At Khanazir, (also 1989-90), work concentrated mainly on the southwest cemetery slope, which consisted of oval, stone-lined cist tombs dated to the Early Bronze Age IV period. One intrusive burial in an EB IV tomb contained a scarab with hieroglyphics and a seal with a carving of Anubis from the time of Ramses II in the Late Bronze Age II period.

Part of this lecture also focused on Lapp's work on a number of cylinder seals and cylinder seal impressions found at the Dead Sea Plain sites. The following day Professor Lapp lectured in the *Bible Lands and their Exploration* class in the Seminary. (Paul Ray Jr.) 

## Archaeology of Ancient Israel

*The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*, edited by Amnon Ben-Tor, is derived from class lectures (originally in Hebrew) by eight archaeologists who were asked to summarize their period of specialty. Each chapter of the book represents one archaeological period, beginning with Neolithic and ending with Iron II-III. The English is smooth (although, in some cases the Hebrew biblical references were retained).

O. Bar-Yosef carefully explains various approaches to understanding the Neolithic revolution and the chapter evidences his knowledge of the period. However, some of his terminology is unclear and a few more carefully chosen photographs and charts would have made his chapter more usable at the introductory level.

R. Gonen's discussion of the Chalcolithic period provides a broad understanding of the economic and cultural basis of the period. Her descriptions of metallurgy were especially useful.

Urbanization is often seen as the hallmark of the Early Bronze Age, yet the reader of A. Ben-Tor's chapter may be left wondering whether or not the EB Age in Canaan experienced such a phenomenon. He summarizes well the EB materials within four epochs corresponding to Egyptian Dynasties. Combining his two chronology sections (pp. 82 and 122-123) and making a clear state-ment early in the chapter of what characterized the EB Age in Canaan would have strengthened his presentation.


R. Gophna does a good job of surveying the material culture of the EBIV/Intermediate Bronze/MBI period. W. Dever is the primary foil (e.g. "There seems to be no correlation between the tripartite chronological division of the late third millennium proposed by Dever" p. 138).

A. Kempinski's and R. Gonen's classically formulated explanations of the Middle Bronze Ages contain detailed explanations of pottery plates and a discussion of the cultural changes exhibited in those plates.

On the basis of his pottery descriptions, Kempinski argues well (but not convincingly) for an early date for the beginning of the Late Bronze Age (p. 179), while Gonen responds indirectly to Kempinski's conclusions (p. 216).

The chapters by A. Mazar (Iron I) and G. Barkay (Iron II-III) are the best in the book. Pottery plates would have been helpful. Longer descriptions of the ceramic issues would have been welcomed. (For example, Barkay assumes E. Wright's position interpreting Samaria [with which I agree], without acknowledging that there those who follow K. Kenyon's interpretation [pp. 319-320].) Mazar's information on the Philistines as well as Barkay's explanation of the "four-room house" and water systems was especially useful.

Since *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel* grew from lectures to an introductory class in biblical archaeology, it would seem that the target readership would therefore be students at an introductory level. However, the book is composed of essays by eight authors who approach their complex subjects from different points of view and with different emphases. On the whole their contributions are solid and make a positive contribution to the library of archaeological literature, but because the authors have approached their topics from different perspectives (and perhaps because the lectures were so heavily edited), new students to archaeology will probably not find this book as helpful as others (e.g. *Biblical Archaeology in Focus* by K. Schoville, Baker Book House, 1978; or *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible* by A. Mazar, Doubleday, 1990).

Whatever its limitations, *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel* contains well-written chapters by influential Israeli archaeologists. It is well worth acquiring. (David Merling) 



On April 17, 1994, a brief archaeological survey was conducted at the Hiram Edson farm site in western New York by Randall Younker, Ralph Hendrix, Zeljko Gregor, and Michael Younker. Craig Hadley served as field historian and James Nix represented Adventist Historic Ministries (AHM), owner of the property which is located about 2.5 miles south of Port Gibson.

From documentary evidence, it is known that between 1832 and 1844, a house and barn belonging to Hiram Edson were built on the property. It was upon leaving this barn that Edson reported receiving his Sanctuary vision—central to SDA theology. The Edson house and barn stood on the property from at least 1844 to 1848 when the third sabbath conference was held there.

The parcel surveyed by the Institute team is probably the actual property Edson's house and barn were located upon since it is almost exactly 2 miles from the north boundary of the property to Port Gibson, a measurement mentioned in historical records. However, the actual location of the barn has been lost. The purpose of the survey was to archaeologically determine the occupation history of the site and locate the presence of architectural remains dating to the Edson era in order that they may be avoided by AHM construction activities. AHM purchased the western portion of the


## Team Conducts Survey of Hiram Edson Farm

original Hiram Edson farm in 1989, and it was this portion of the farm which was surveyed. Survey methods included visual surveys, 1 x 1 meter probes, shovel tests, and a metal detector.

An abandoned house stands in the southwest corner of the property. Visual survey of the meadow northwest of the house indicated no obscured architectural remains. A swampy woodland contained a modern shack and barbed-wire from the 1860s to the 1890s. No attempt was made to locate possible building sites to the extreme east of the AHM property as that parcel is privately owned.


The house in the southwest corner of the property was probably built between 1864 and 1874, with additions prior to 1937 (based on architectural analysis done by Crawford and Stearns in 1991). Two 1 x 1 meter probes were opened on the north side of the house. Excavation to the base of the stone foundation produced only one sherd of tan stoneware which might date earlier than the 1860s, but could date to later in the century. Also found were

whiteware sherds and square nails which date to the second half of the 19th century. Shovel tests near the house produced artifacts dated from the second half of the 19th century down to the present. No significant artifacts were found in the meadow, neither from shovel tests nor from the metal detector.


In short, the survey recovered no archaeological evidence of occupation in the southwest corner or the meadow earlier than the latter part of the 19th century. This finding cleared the way for AHM to move ahead with improvements to the land. Future investigations on that portion of the original farm not owned by AHM may prove more fruitful in finding evidence from the 1830-1840 Hiram Edson era. (Randall W. Younker and Ralph E. Hendrix) 

## Little Donates Book

Robert Little, who served as the first anthropologist for the Heshbon Expedition, has recently donated *The Mosaics of Jordan* by Michele Piccirillo to the Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Library located in the Horn Museum. Little is a former professor at Andrews and a long-time supporter of the work of the Institute of Archaeology/Horn Museum.

The book is an oversized publication produced by the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan. It contains specialized studies on mosaics which have been found at various archaeological sites in Jordan including Tell Hesban. Especially attractive are its many color photos. The book will make a very useful contribution as a resource in the Horn Library. Thanks, Dr. Little! (Paul Ray, Jr.) 

## Running Subscriptions

Through the generosity of Leona G. Running, acquisition of professional journals for the Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Library has now resumed. Due to lack of funding, subscriptions for the many journals had become inactive over the years. When the Horn Museum accepted the collection, a commitment was made to resume subscriptions and retain back issues in as timely a manner as funds would allow. Dr. Running's donation has provided subscriptions to the: *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan*, *Biblical Archaeologist*, *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, *Israel Exploration Journal*, *Levant*, *Palestine Exploration Quarterly*, *Syria*, and *Tel Aviv*. Running, a long-time colleague of S. Horn, is professor emerita of Biblical Languages at the SDA Seminary. (Ralph E. Hendrix) 



## "House of David" Fragment\*

The first archaeological reference to the "House of David" was discovered July 21, 1993 at Tel Dan in northern Israel. The basalt stone fragment, originally part of a larger monumental inscription, was found by surveyor Gila Cook who was part of the Hebrew Union College/Hebrew University of Jerusalem excavations at the site. The discovery of this extra-biblical reference to the kingdom of Judah is extremely important. In a larger sense, the discovery of this monumental inscription in Israel implies the presence of other ancient written evidences awaiting recovery.

"Taking a closer look at the stone while still *in situ* and helped by the direction of the early afternoon rays of the sun which illuminated the engraved lines on the stone, we could see the contours of the letters quite clearly. The stone was easily removed as only a small part of it was embedded in the ground. Turning the stone to face the sun, the letters became even more legible. The words, separated by dots, sprung (*sic*) to life," writes Biran and Naveh.

The fragment was reused as a building block in a gate structure. The destruction level directly above the gate dates to the time of Tiglath-pileser III's conquest of northern Israel ca. 733/2 BC. The fragment was already part of the gateway at the time of that destruction. Pottery directly below the

fragment dates ca. 850 BC and earlier. Therefore, the stela was broken no later than ca. 850 BC.

The fragment, 32 cm × 22 cm (about 12.6 in × 8.7 in), was originally part of a stela estimated to be about 100 cm × 50 cm (about 39.4 in × 19.7 in). Thirteen lines of the original inscription are witnessed, starting from the right edge of the fragment (ancient semitic languages are read, right-to-left). The language is Early Aramaic or Phoenician and the form of the script dates to the mid-800s BC. Each word, separated by a dot, was inscribed on the smoothed basalt surface with a rounded iron stylus.

Translation of the inscription is:

- 1 ...
- 2 ... my father went up ...
- 3 ... and my father died, he went to ... [Is-]
- 4 rael formerly in my father's land ...
- 5 I ... and Hadad went in front of me ...
- 6 ... my king. And I slew of ... [cha-]
- 7 riots and two thousand horsemen ...
- 8 the king of Israel. And ... slew ... [kin-]
- 9 g of the House of David. And I put ...
- 10 their land ...
- 11 other ...
- 12 led over Is[rael] ...
- 13 siege upon ...

The hero of the inscription is not named, but is a son (or descendent or representative) of the Aramean king "Hadad." He recounts his victory over the king of Israel and the House of David, that is, over the northern-most

### Demsky Lectures

Aaron Demsky, professor of Biblical History at Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel, presented "The Tel Dan 'House of David' Inscription" to students and faculty as part of the 1994 Lecture Series.

Demsky recounted the story of the fragment's discovery. Offering insights gleaned from over thirty-year's study of history, archaeology, and linguistics, professor Demsky discussed in some detail the technicalities of translating and interpreting this extremely important text.

of the divided kingdoms and the kingdom of Judah. This indicates the divided kingdoms must have been allies in the war. The fact that the stela was later smashed implies that Dan was recaptured and a stela commemorating the victories of an enemy was not appreciated by the new ruler.

Biran and Naveh suggest the events described on the fragment refer to the following scenario. Ben Hadad I captured Dan in 885 BC (1 Kings 15:16-22 // 2 Chronicles 16:1-6) only to have it recovered by Omri. The city was then recaptured by the writer of the stela, but was later returned by Ben Hadad II to Ahab, ca. 850 BC (1 Kings 20:34). This transferral of the city—four times in 35 years—fits the stratigraphic record as they interpret it. But they freely admit that other historical scenarios are possible.

Further study and, especially, the recovery of more of the stela, will help clarify the history.

(\* Edited by Ralph E. Hendrix from "An Aramaic Stele Fragment from Tel Dan" in the *Israel Exploration Journal* vol 43.2-3 (1993): 81-98 by Avraham Biran and Joseph Naveh)



Aaron Demsky explains the Tel Dan inscription.





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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# R A N D O M   S U R V E Y

## HISTORICAL TRIVIA

About 1488 BC, Thothmes III, the pharaoh who first extended the Egyptian Empire north into Palestine, used a narrow pass through the Carmel Range to sneak-up on Megiddo.

In 1918, towards the end of World War I (some 3400 years after Thothmes III), British general Allenby used the same mountain pass to sneak-up behind the Turks and defeat them!

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERENDIPITY?

A white marble statue base of the Egyptian 18th Dynasty (female) Pharaoh Hatshepsut which was discovered by R. Lepsius in 1843, matched the upper half discovered by H. E. Winlock in 1926.

Conversely, a body and base found by Winlock matched a sphinx head of Hatshepsut found by Lepsius. Because of this fortuitous matching, and because the older pieces were in two different museums, both statues were rejoined, each museum getting a complete statue!

## Middle East Tour

During April, David Merling, the Museum Curator, led 30 seminary students on a study tour of Israel, Jordan and Egypt. The group was an eclectic gathering of students from many parts of the world. In addition to the tour, students completed two study courses.

We apologize for the lateness of this Winter-Spring issue. News of this past summer's exhilarating six-week dig in Jordan will appear in our upcoming Fall issue.

# N E W S L E T T E R



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