



## 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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### War and Peace at Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri

From the Amman National Park, a visitor can look down on the massive early Iron I ramparts and walls of Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri—the best-preserved city dating to this period so far uncovered in all of ancient Jordan and Palestine.

#### Ammonite Invasion: 1200 BC

Beneath 1.5 meters (over 4 feet) of fallen and burned mud bricks, archaeologists led by Larry G. Herr (Canadian Union College) found a second casemate room which formed part of the city wall. This new room was filled with about 40 large jars for storing barley (now burnt and charred). Some of the totally-smashed jars were lined against the walls. Others had fallen when the second story of the building collapsed. All were crushed together in a mass of broken sherds above the flagstone floor. Intermixed with the broken vessels were the charred bones of an old man and a youth.

Devastating war about 1200 BC seems to have caused this stone-cracking firestorm which set everything ablaze—collapsing the building and dismembering the old man and youth. Five bronze spear and lance points found in the room along with slingstones found nearby in the city evidence a pitched battle. Does this war signal the arrival of the ancient Ammonites? Some archaeologists think so.

Many walls of the neighboring rooms are still preserved over 2 meters high (over 6 feet) encased in destruction debris. East of the casemate room, and connected to it by a doorway, was a large pillared room. Six pillar bases have been uncovered, the tops of which originally held wooden posts that supported the roof. The stones in the walls of this room were so severely damaged by the firestorm that many are cracked and in constant danger of collapse.

Excavations this season also uncovered a plastered pool dating from the Roman period which was used by Jewish inhabitants for ritual cleansing. Below this

is an Iron I destruction layer (yet unexcavated) that appears to link up with the destroyed casemate rooms.

#### Persian Bureaucracy: 500 BC

The remains of a third building in the Imperial Persian administrative center gave glimpses of the history of Jordan at about 500 BC. Its rooms have yielded many figurines, seals, and seal impressions during several dig seasons. About 40 seals or impressions have been found so far, many of poor quality, but several which preserve the names and titles of officials of the late Ammonite monarchy along with treasurers or governors of the Persian Province of Ammon.

Bureaucrats working in these buildings and living in houses nearby administered and supported a series of agricultural estates surrounding Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri—from Jawa in the east to Na<sup>c</sup>Ur in the west. The estates seem to have been producing wine for export (as taxes) to Babylonian and Persian overlords.

#### Future Excavations: AD 1996

Close cooperation between the Madaba Plains Project and the Jordanian Department of Antiquities has allowed bi-yearly excavations at Tell-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri since 1984. Not only has this site served as a training ground for hundreds of professional and volunteer archaeologists, each season has added to knowledge of ancient Jordan: biblical officials have become tangible through their seals, the destruction and carnage of a war fought 3,000 years ago has added a very human dimension, aspects of religion (ritual pools, figurines) and economics (seeds, animal bones) have helped to round out the picture. Despite the gains, all of this data has come from a relatively small percentage of the site. A great deal of additional work can yet be done at Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri.

Besides conservation projects such as that needed to prevent the collapse of the high stone walls, future seasons will allow for greater exposure of the remarkable Iron I city and its spectacular casemate fortification system. The administrative center has many secrets yet to be revealed, and plans are to expand this area horizontally as well. Make your own plans to join the Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri team in 1996! (Larry G. Herr)





## IA/HAM and MPP Report Research

Responsible scientific research demands prompt reporting and publication. Each year, a series of coordinated conventions—the "year end" meetings—provide IA/HAM and MPP personnel the opportunity to give the world a first glimpse at summer discoveries and subsequent analyses.

The reporting season extends over the last two weeks of November, beginning with the Annual Archaeological Conference at Wheaton College, and continuing with an intensive week that includes meetings of the Near Eastern Archaeological Society (NEAS) and the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR). This convention also provides a convenient time to convene a Madaba Plains Project consortium meeting and reception for interested scholars and students.

Curator David Merling and Institute Director Randall Younker both presented reports at the annual Wheaton College conference held 11-12 Nov. Merling offered an update the Madaba Plains project and Younker recapped the 1990 season at Tel Gezer.

At the NEAS meeting, 17-18 Nov., Merling and Younker collaborated on a report of Tell Jalul

1994. Paul Ray Jr. (assistant to the curator here at the Institute) also described Iron Age fortresses in the Negev.

MPP personnel presenting papers at the NEAS included Chang-Ho Ji (La Sierra University) on the 4-room house in Palestine, and Dan Dyke/Mark Ziese (Cincinnati Bible Seminary) who described the use of computer digitizing in the study and publication of pottery.

On 19 Nov., Douglas Clark (Walla Walla College) coordinated the Madaba Plains Project consortium dialog and evening reception.

The ASOR meetings were held 19-21 Nov. Randall Younker presided at the symposium on ancient Ammon during which he presented an overview of the Ammonites, and, along with Øystein LaBianca, detailed the social structure of Ammonite society. LaBianca also presented his ideas on using archaeology for teaching the "7 big ideas" of science.

MPP directors Lawrence T. Geraty (La Sierra University) and Larry G. Herr (Canadian Union College) also took part in the ASOR meetings. Geraty announced the principal findings of the 1994 MPP season and was a panel presenter in a discussion regarding the control of access to ancient materials. Herr


described the Iron II/Persian transition at Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri.

Other MPP personnel who gave reports at the ASOR meetings included Gary Christopherson (University of Arizona) who presented his analysis of environmental cycles as revealed in his Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri survey. Carolyn Draper (Archbishop Ryan High School) presided over a workshop on using archaeology as a focus for teaching scientific ideas to secondary students. David Hopkins (Wesley Theological Seminary) read a paper on Solomon and economic reconstruction. Howard Krug (Rochester, NY) and Bogdan Dabrowski (Levant Foundation Poland) reported on their findings in the cemeteries near Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri. Gloria London (University of Washington) gave her conclusions on the ethnic implications of pottery decoration.


Without doubt, these meetings serve as a tremendously beneficial "clearing house" for ideas, reports, and conclusions. The effort expended by sponsoring organizations is very much appreciated, as is the manifold support of the educational institutions to which participating scholars belong. (Ralph E. Hendrix)




## Digitizing Archive

Mark Ford, editorial and development staff member of the *Review and Herald Publishing Assn.*, (R&H) spent 14-16 Nov. selecting slides from the IA/HAM archive for digitizing. The R&H has committed to republishing the SDA Bible Dictionary and the Bible Encyclopedia on CD-ROM. Institute slides will form the core of their digitized graphics archive and will be a primary source for illustrating these electronic publications. In exchange for use of the slides, the Institute will receive copies of the digitized archive for its own use. This arrangement accelerates the IA/HAM toward its own goal of electronic publishing. (Ralph E. Hendrix) 

## Geraty Visits

MPP Senior Director Lawrence T. Geraty completed post-season dig management duties during his three-day visit to the Institute, 14-16 Nov. Geraty, who administers the operations of the MPP field camp during the dig season, verified and delivered financial paperwork which documents in-country expenses during the summer 1994. This was necessary prior to "settling the books." In addition to financial work, Geraty divided the 1994 objects for delivery to Larry Herr (Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri) and Randall Younker (Tell Jalul). Some of these objects will ultimately be returned to the Jordanian Department of Antiquities. (Ralph E. Hendrix) 

## Materials Relocated

Objects, pottery, paperwork, and photographs from the Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri excavations (1984-1994) have, or will soon be, relocated from the IA/HAM to Larry Herr at Canadian Union College until their analysis is complete. This decision, made during the summer by the MPP directors, is to facilitate their study by Herr, chief archaeologist of the site. While all materials will ultimately be returned and housed at the IA/HAM, this interrum relocation will greatly reduce logistical problems involved in their study (i.e., the problem of analysts being physically separated from their research materials by hundreds of miles). (Ralph E. Hendrix) 



## Tel Miqne-Ekron, 1994

The 1994 season at Tel Miqne-Ekron (directed by S. Gitin, Albright Institute, and T. Dothan, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem) provided exciting new evidence for the founding of an early Philistine city. The city was built during the 12th c. BC on the ruins of the smaller Canaanite town of the 13th c. BC. In the northern acropolis (Field I), large store-houses from the late phases of the Canaanite town were found covered in massive debris consisting of wooden beams and store vessels. This wreckage is a result of the Sea Peoples' (Philistines') invasion around 1200 BC.

The early Philistine city (1200-1000 BC) included well-defined industrial, storage, elite, and cultic areas. Excavation in Field IV, Lower, produced several incised ivory handles and bovine scapula indicating Aegean affinities. On the northeast acropolis (Field I, Sondage), a heavy concentration of monochrome and Mycenaean IIIc:Ib pottery with Aegean motifs was found. This pottery is one of the hallmarks of Sea Peoples/Philistine occupation throughout the eastern Mediterranean basin.

The late Philistine village of Ekron was built in the 10th c. BC after the earlier city was destroyed. Only ten acres in size, it was constructed on a series of terraces and was protected by a new fortification system. At its center (Field III) was a network of streets, drainage systems, and connected buildings with a ceramic sequence from 10th-8th c. BC. Pottery included both Phoenician and Judean types. By the beginning of the 7th c., this late Philistine village had expanded to a city of more than 85 acres with the largest olive oil production center currently known in the ancient Near East. Over 110 olive oil installations have been excavated.

In Field IV, Upper, a Neo-Assyrian type palace of monumental proportions was uncovered. Hundreds of whole vessels, a stele-like stone with incised lines and a rosette—an Assyrian royal/cultic symbol, a number of Assyrian-type cultic vessels, and a uniquely carved elephant tusk with the figure of an Egyptian queen (see photo at right) were found in the building. The palace was destroyed during the Nebuchadnezzar's 603 BC campaign.

Staff and volunteers numbering 143 from the US, Canada, Israel, England, Korea, and South Africa participated in this 1994 dig season. The dig is sponsored by the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research and the Hebrew University (both in Jerusalem) along with 9 co-sponsoring and 12 supporting institutions. Andrews University has been a supporting institution since 1991. The next season is planned for 5 Jun-21 Jul, 1995. (Michael G. Hasel, University of Arizona, from the press release.)



Photo courtesy of the Tel Miqne-Ekron Excavations.

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## AL-MAKTÁBA

THE BOOKSTORE

### Hesban After 25 Years

edited by David Merling and Lawrence T. Geraty  
(xxiv + 379 pp). ISBN 0-9642060-0-5; paper. \$12.95

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# RANDOM SURVEY

## New Outlets

The Andrews University Bookstore is now stocking *Hesban After 25 Years*. They are able to process orders on Mastercard and Visa. Their number is: 1-616-471-3287.

The Andrews University Press is also distributing the book. Institutions and businesses who have accounts with the AU Press may wish to deal through that convenient outlet. Their number is: 1-616-471-3392.

FAX: 1-616-471-3619

Our email address is:

[hornmusm@andrews.edu](mailto:hornmusm@andrews.edu)

**Another  
International  
Conference on  
the Archaeology  
of Jordan is  
being planned for  
Turin, Italy  
in the Summer  
of 1995.**

**Be alert  
for details.**

## Gregors Lecture in Croatia

Željko and Ružica Gregor (both Institute student staff) recently visited Croatia where Željko taught "Archaeology of Palestine" to seminarians at the Adventističko Učilište, Maruševac, 12-23 Dec. Ružica taught "History of Israel" to the same group of 35 students. During the visit, they had the opportunity to review the status of the ancient history and archaeology curriculum at the college, as well as to discuss possibilities for opening an archaeological museum on site.

Željko and Ružica also presented public lectures on archaeology. As many as 200 attended 16 lectures and slide presentations held 23 Dec-8 Jan. During the course of events, both were interviewed on local radio stations in Daruvar and Slavonski Brod, the two cities in which the public lectures were given. A running account of the lectures were also reported in local newspapers.

The thirst for knowledge is nowhere more obvious than in Eastern European countries such as Croatia. The opportunities are enormous and deserve our encouragement.

## Hyraxes?

When the Phoenecians (another of the "Sea Peoples") came to a new land at the western end of the Mediterranean Sea, they confused the wild rabbit that lived there, with the rock hyrax they were familiar with at home. In fact, they named the place "country of hyraxes"—Hispania—the country we know as Spain!

The sober news of the deaths of Robert G. and Jean Boling in a traffic accident on the road to Aqaba was reported by the *Jordanian Times*, 14 Dec. The Bolings were completing research under the auspices of ACOR. Dr. Boling was part of the MPP during the 1984 season when he conducted the Regional Survey. We wish to offer our condolences to the family.

# NEWSLETTER



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