



INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

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Persian period pillared building from Field C, Tell Jalul.

Special Report on the Madaba Plains Project

Jalul 1996 a Success


The third field season at Tell Jalul came to a very successful conclusion in early August. "It was an excellent season and we met all of our preseason objectives," commented dig director Randall W. Younker. Younker was again joined by co-director David Merling. Excavations continued in three previously dug fields (Fields A, B, and C) while a new field was also opened (Field D). The four fields yielded architecture and artifacts from the Early Iron II to the Late Iron II and Persian periods (9th to 5th centuries BC).

Early Iron II architectural remains were exposed in Field B, continuing the excavation of the previously found paved approach ramp and outer gatehouse. Additional flagstones from this period were found between the gatehouse and a possible threshold of the inner gatehouse of the 10th/9th centuries BC. Typical collared-rim jars and carinated bowls were uncovered over an ash layer which suggests a destruction of the site near the Iron I/II transition period.

Four stones of what appears to be a new gatehouse were also unearthed in Field B. These stones suggest that part of the Early Iron II gateway was rebuilt, perhaps a century or so after the original Early Iron II gateway was constructed. While the lower portion of the approach ramp continued to be used with this later gateway, the original outer gatehouse was replaced by a larger one. A stretch of light gray clay, possibly a roadbed for the gate's entrance, was also found. Possibly during the 8th century the entire gateway system was reconstructed. The approach ramp of this gate follows the same line as the original Early Iron II gateway. Paving stones from this later gateway could be sporadically traced.


Field A yielded a large Late Iron II "tripart building." Parts of all four walls of the building could be traced. The floor of the structure was either flagstones or packed earth. Two parallel rows of stone pillars, most of which were fallen, supported the roof. Several fine clay figurines, including both human and animal forms as well as the typical horse and rider figurines, were discovered in this building. Engraved seals were also found dating to this period.

Late Iron II/Persian remains were excavated in two fields. In Field C, a large Persian period building was excavated. Two or three rows of stone pillars supported this building's roof, which subsequently collapsed burying the rooms. Artifacts found in the ruins included incense altars, a stone roof roller used in resurfacing the roof, numerous basalt food preparation vessels, and a couple of iron tools. In Field D, several wall lines appearing to belong to domestic structures were exposed. Many fragments of Late Iron II/Persian bowls were found in this area, as well as figurines and a limestone cosmetic palette.

The co-directors of the excavation were Younker, who also functioned as the field archaeologist, and Merling, who was also the objects registrar. Field supervisors included (in alphabetical order): Theodore W. Burgh (University of Arizona), Richard D. Dorsett, Stefanie P. Elkins, James R. Fisher (Andrews University), Zeljko and Ruzica Gregor, Jennifer L. Groves (University of Arizona), and Paul J. Ray, Jr. (Andrews University). Stephanie Merling returned as the pottery registrar along with Mark S. Ziese (Cincinnati Bible Seminary) as architect and surveyor. Randy Seibold (Andrews University) and Yuki Mizumoto (Andrews University) were the dig photographers and Karen Borstad (University of Arizona) functioned as systems analyst. The excavation was also made possible by the diligent efforts of the square supervisors and volunteers. (Edited by Philip R. Drey from the press release) 

Seal Found at Jalul


A seal bearing an Ammonite inscription was found at Tell Jalul this past excavation season. The seal was found by Randall W. Younker, dig director, on the surface of the tell during the first official day of excavations. According to Larry G. Herr, dig director, the seal bears an engraving typical of an Ammonite script dating to the 7th century BC. The inscription reads "belonging to 'Naqab, son of Zedekel." Both 'Naqab and Zedekel are names which have been found on other Ammonite seals.

The presence of this seal at Tell Jalul bears importance for an historico-geographical reason. It might suggest that the extent of the border of the Ammonites during the latter part of the Iron Age was as far south as Madaba. (Edited by Philip R. Drey from the press release) 




Ammonite seal (J96.0100) from Tell Jalul.

Tell el-'Umeiri '96

The sixth season of excavations at Tell el-'Umeiri produced evidence of three different cities. The earliest city, dating to the Early Bronze Age, was represented by a dolmen at the base of the site containing over 20 burials. According to Larry G. Herr, dig director, this season excavators uncovered seven contemporaneous floor levels outside of the dolmen. The second city has been dug for over ten years and is part of an early Iron Age city. The 1996 excavations extended the city wall 30 meters and discovered a storeroom with 18 large jars containing grape and olive seeds. The third and last city at 'Umeiri was an Ammonite administrative center which controlled the rural production of wine. The largest room of this complex was uncovered this season revealing three levels of plastered floors. (Edited by Philip R. Drey from the press release) 


Surveys and Tell Hesban '96

The survey project of the 1996 season consisted of three surveys: the Hesban Random Square Survey, the Eastern Desert Epigraphical Survey, and the Environmental Survey. The random square survey discovered 20 previously unknown sites within a five kilometer radius of Tell Hesban. Also, from the evidence produced by the survey, sites appear to be rather scarce in the plain region possibly due to destruction by land use. The epigraphical survey was formed to decipher the graffiti written inside the cave at Khirbet Rufeis. The area east of the cave was searched for evidence which would provide answers to the writings. Forty new inscriptions and tribal markings were discovered and these findings may allow for a better understanding of the events which happened in the cave during the Roman-Byzantine and later periods. The environmental survey discovered the location of a new palaeolithic site in Azrak. After a three-day search, over 500 pieces of worked stone and faunal material were recovered. The collection of worked stone tools may be of the Final Acheulian and the Epipalaeolithic traditions. Based on these preliminary findings, this site may be the focus of upcoming excavation seasons.

During the 1996 season cleaning and restoration of Tell Hesban was initiated. The site has deteriorated since the completion of excavations by Andrews University archaeologists in 1976. The cleaning effort centered around the removal of barks and rubble in order to regain the Iron, Classical, and Islamic structures. Paths and stairs were also erected to facilitate tourists. Signs in Arabic and English were installed at various positions to explain the ruins. A special thanks of assistance must be given to Ghazi Bisheh of the Department of Antiquities for his support and to the Department of Public Work for motorist signs. (Edited by Philip R. Drey from the press release) 


Black Obelisk Acquired

A full-size plaster replica of the Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III was recently acquired by the Horn Archaeological Museum from the British Museum. The obelisk is a four-sided, needle-shaped pillar containing 210 lines of inscriptions and 20 panels of reliefs illustrating the triumphs of Shalmaneser III of Assyria (c. 859-824 BC). The original basalt obelisk was discovered in Nimrud, Iraq (biblical, Calah), by A.H. Layard during excavations in 1845-46.

Shalmaneser III was the first Assyrian king who had contact with the Israelites and, in 841 BC, destroyed a Syro-Palestinian army. This victory resulted in the capture of many kings including Jehu, king of Israel. The image of Jehu on the obelisk is the only known contemporary illustration of an Israelite king. (Philip R. Drey) 

Pottery Book Titled

Following the enlargement of the pottery guide to a full-fledged introductory book, its title has been refined: *Ancient Pottery of Transjordan: An Introduction Utilizing Published Whole Forms—Late Neolithic through Late Islamic* by Ralph E. Hendrix, Philip R. Drey, and J. Bjørnar Storfjell. This new title more clearly describes the book's content and scope.

From the outset, the authors envisioned a very "graphically-oriented" text. Many detailed illustrations clearly explain the vocabulary of the archaeologist as well as the methodology of the form-based paradigm. Three tables and 11 figures included in chapter 2 illustrate the basic vessel parts (lips, rims, bases, etc.), teach how to read pottery drawings, and provide detailed descriptions of vessel part variations (eg. the many types of lips, or of rims, etc.) Chapter 3 includes 4 tables and 18 figures explaining the various typical bowl, jar, and jug forms, as well as the form-based paradigm. Chapter 5 includes 469 pottery examples representing the basic forms of each period. These many illustrations will help communicate more clearly the inherent complexities of pottery description and typology to the beginning student. (Ralph E. Hendrix) 

AL-MAKTÁBA

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RANDOM SURVEY

The Glass Memorial Library at Johnson Bible College has been approved to house the archive of the Kerak Resources Project (KRP). According to Gerald L. Mattingly, director, the archive will serve as a depository, workroom/laboratory, and distribution point for all KRP artifacts as well as publication materials. A research collection of books and articles concerning Jordan, Moab, and Kerak may also be found in the archive.

The personnel of the Horn Archaeological Museum would like to thank Douglas Jones, Director of Public Relations, and Demetra Andreasen, Community Services Coordinator, for their efforts at beautifying the Museum grounds.

Timothy P. Harrison (University of Chicago) initiated excavations of the pre-Classical ruins at Madaba this year. We wish Tim a successful and fruitful field season.

On August 17-22, Randall W. Younker lectured at the Michigan Conference Worker's Meeting on biblical archaeology: what it can do and how it is done in the real world. The lecture was well-received and Younker was invited back to lecture at future camp meetings.

Institute Personnel

There are two returning veterans of the Institute team: Paul J. Ray, Jr. as Assistant to the Curator and Philip R. Drey as Editorial Assistant. We also welcome Giselle Hasel as the new Institute artist.



Museum Lecture Series

November 11

Piotr Bienkowski on
"Assyrians, Babylonians,
and Persians in Jordan."

November 18

Leen Ritmeyer on the
"Location of the Temple
and the Ark."



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