Web Site Up and Growing

The Institute of Archaeology/Horn Archaeological Museum is proud to announce the establishment of the Institute of Archaeology World Wide Web site:

http://www.andrews.edu/ARCHAEOLOGY

This web site is designed for both the casual user and the professional scholar. It provides quick availability to personnel, contact numbers, events, operation hours, as well as efficient access to academic curriculae, archive data, preliminary reports, dig databases, and publications.

The web site is divided into four main categories of the Institute of Archaeology, Horn Archaeological Museum, Archaeological Fieldwork, and Publications Department. While the initial version of the site will be descriptive of archaeological fieldwork and publications, future web site updates will include a digital tour of the Horn Museum, interactive archaeological field data derived from various excavations, multi-media Museum accession databases, and extensive links.

The Institute web site was designed primarily by Brian Malooley (Earthshine, South Bend, IN), while the text was collated by Philip R. Drey, Assistant to the Director of Archaeological Publications, in association with Institute personnel. The site was made possible through the cooperation of Andrews University with the assistance of its Chief Information Officer J. Mailen Kootsey and University webmaster Dan Bidwell. (Philip R. Drey)

WELCOME TO THE INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Institute of Archaeology
Horn Archaeological Museum
Archaeological Fieldwork
Publications Department
Pottery Grant

Gloria A. London (University of Washington) has been awarded a grant from the White-Levy Foundation to conduct ceramic technology studies on the pottery of Tell Hesban. These studies, along with ongoing work, will be published in the pottery volume for Tell Hesban (Hesban Final Publication Series vol. 11) which is currently being prepared by James A. Sauer and Larry G. Herr (Canadian Union College).

London’s studies will involve petrographic analysis, including the preparation of new thin sections and neutron activation analysis. In addition to London’s work, the grant will fund study of the Roman and Byzantine pottery which will be conducted by Yvonne Gerber, a specialist from Switzerland. The grant will aid in the preparation and photographic reduction of pottery plates for publication.

The White-Levy grant will also allow for comparative technological studies on similar pottery from Tell el-'Umeiri. The results of this analysis will greatly assist in understanding the Madaba Plains, Jordan. It will help define the Ammonite corpus of pottery in the late Iron II and Persian periods. Ammonite pottery has been found at both Tell el-'Umeiri and Tell Jalul. Later periods will also be covered as excavations at Tell Hesban have produced an almost unbroken chronological thread from early Iron I period to the Mamluk period.

The White-Levy Foundation is administered by Harvard University. (Edited from recent communication with Larry G. Herr)

HAM Lectures

The Horn Archaeological Museum was pleased to host two world-renowned scholars for its lecture series during the Spring quarter.

Marcel Sigrist entertained many listeners in early March with his lecture on “The Cuneiform Archive of Drehem and Ur III Administration.” After a brief introduction to Mesopotamian history, Sigrist explained how, during the Ur III period, the city of Drehem was a center for tax collection often including cattle. The tablets in the Horn Archaeological Museum are records of these transactions and provide a clue to the administration of the Ur III period.

Sigrist is Professor of Assyriology at the Ecole Biblique de Jerusalem, Israel. The majority of Horn Museum tablets have been published by Sigrist in the Assyriological Series.

On April 14, 1997, Jacob Milgrom lectured to a large crowd on the “Biblical and Archaeological Evidence for the Extent and Nature of Idolatry in 8th and 7th Century Judah.” During this well-received presentation, Milgrom discussed the secret, clandestine “popular religion” practiced by the Hebrews before the United Monarchy. Archaeological evidence for this religion included the many figurines which have been uncovered in Israel during the past years of excavation.

Milgrom is Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, CA, and is Former Chair and Founder of its Jewish Studies Program. (Philip R. Drey)
Summer Dig Activities

Restoration and excavation at Tell Hesban will resume during the 1997 field season through the cooperation of several institutions including Andrews University and the National Geographic Society.

Tell Hesban restoration will be coordinated by Øystein S. LaBianca (Behavioral Sciences, Andrews University). Excavations will be directed by Paul J. Ray, Jr., Assistant to the Curator (HAM, Andrews University). Philip R. Drey, Assistant to the Director of Archaeological Publications (IA, Andrews University), will attempt to clarify one of two Iron Age features found during previous excavations.

In addition to restoration and excavation, Gary L. Christopherson (University of Arizona) will continue the random square survey of the Hesban region while Douglas W. Schnurrenberger and Richard P. Watson (both of San Juan College) and Russanne D. Low (University of Minnesota) will begin excavation of the palaeolithic site in Azrak which was discovered during the 1996 environmental survey.

Following work at Tell Hesban, P. Ray will move south to el-Mdeib’ where he will assist Gerald L. Mattingly (Johnson Bible College), director of the Kerak Resources Project, now in its second season. P. Drey will head north to Tell Safut, where Donald H. Wimmer (Seton Hall University) plans continued excavations. (Philip R. Drey)

Publication News

Andrews University Press, the Institute of Archaeology, and the directors of the Madaba Plains Project are pleased to announce the July 1997 availability of Madaba Plains Project 3: The 1989 Season at Tell el-Umeiri and Vicinity and Subsequent Studies. Fourteen specialists have contributed 20 chapters which include 81 photos, 82 tables, 56 pottery plates, 111 maps/plans/drawings, and index. This volume, the third in the MPP Series, is introduced at a Library Rate of $79.99, New Subscription/Individual Order rate of $59.99, and a Student rate of $19.99. The latter two rates also qualify for the option of buying MPP 1 (1984 season) and/or MPP 2 (1987 season) for just $19.99 each. All orders should be addressed to AUPress, 213 Information Services Building, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-1700 (call 616-471-6134 for information).

The Institute’s archaeological publication department is also pleased to announce a working agreement with Mr. Rami Khouri and Al Kutba Publishers (Amman) to distribute all IA/AUPress archaeological titles in Jordan. All dig reports and popular books, including the APOT and Hesban After 25 Years are now available wherever Al Kutba titles are sold. We would like to express our appreciation to various individuals, in particular, Gerald L. Mattingly and Randall W. Younker, who have facilitated this relationship by their willingness to supervise the delivery of books. (Ralph E. Hendrix)
The Institute of Archaeology has learned of the passing of Michael Blaine, a member of the Tell Hesban excavation team and a long-time supporter of the Madaba Plains Project. For those who wish to extend their condolences to his wife, Joyce, her address is P.O. Box 1110, Glendale, CA 91209-1110.

Ancient Jordan is the monthly newsletter of the Jordanian Friends of Archaeology. This newsletter provides excellent articles and much-needed information to anyone interested in Jordanian archaeology. If you are interested in receiving Ancient Jordan, please contact Ms. Samaa Abu Sharar (Editor) at P.O. Box 2440, Amman 11181, Jordan, or at the email address of <foa@nets.com.jo>.

The staff of the Institute of Archaeology wishes to express their sympathies to the family and friends of Lily McCorkle in their time of sorrow.

The Institute of Archaeology/Horn Archaeological Museum is pleased to extend its gratitude to Joseph Seger of the Cobb Institute, Mississippi State University, for his much-appreciated donation. Seger has been a long-time friend of the Institute and we wish to thank him for his support and generosity.

WWW Addresses

http://petra.nic.gov.jo/  
Jordan National Information System

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu  
Ancient Near East List

http://www.azar.org  
A good intercultural resource

http://www.iceonline.net/home/peters5/zoomquk4.html  
Listing of more than 220 archaeological and historical sites

Ancient world web geography index