



INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

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Coins Donated

Four gold coins were donated to the Horn Archaeological Museum by Dr. Ronald Duerksen of Salt Lake City, Utah. The donated coins include a Lydian 1/3 *stater* minted about 650-560 BC. It is one of the earliest coins ever produced. The second coin was produced in Lydia (modern Turkey) under Persian rule between 450-336 BC. The third coin, a *stater*, was made in Scythia about 40 BC. The Scythians lived near the eastern shore of the Black Sea. The image of the Roman emperor Constans (AD 337-50), the youngest son of Constantine the Great, graces the fourth coin.

A *stater* is a gold coin weighing 8.1 grams. It was developed as a standard unit of measure when coins were still minted with precious metals. It was important to maintain a standard weight for each *stater* because each one was literally worth its weight in gold. Coins minted in precious metals could be traded in foreign lands for the value of the metal itself.

The Lydians first developed the art of coinage as a convenient way to guarantee a specific value and as a vehicle of trade. After the conquest of Lydia by the Persians, the latter began to mint their own coins using Lydian expertise with a Persian flavor. The idea of coinage soon passed throughout the Greco-Roman world. Although silver and bronze quickly became the preferred metal for coins, gold ones were still produced as symbols of wealth and prosperity and later for military and emergency purposes.

There are 1000 ancient coins in the Museum collection. An interactive coin display is currently being developed. The Museum is grateful for Dr. Duerksen's generosity and assistance in bringing the ancient world to life. (Paul J. Ray Jr.)



Constans coin on left; *stater* coin on right. Diameter of Constans coin: 2 cm.



The Horn Archaeological Museum Exhibit

is currently closed for the summer. Special appointments for viewing the exhibit may be made by calling 616-471-3273. The exhibit will re-open September 29, 1998. Regular viewing hours are Monday-Thursday 9:00 am- noon and 1:00 pm-5:00 pm; Friday 9:00 am-noon; Saturday 2:00-5:00 pm; closed Sundays.

Jordanian Expo

The Institute of Archaeology participated in the first national Jordanian Business Week held at Detroit's Cobo Hall Convention Center from October 20-23, 1997. The exposition promoted business ventures between Michigan and Jordan. His Royal Highness Crown Prince El-Hassan and the Honorable John Engler, Governor of the State of Michigan, sponsored the event.

The Institute presented a traveling display of objects, graphics, and a video of the Madaba Plains Project excavations. Institute and Museum personnel conducted several workshops focusing on the Ammonites, the programs of the Museum, restoration of cisterns in Jordan, and ancient trade in Jordan. Detroit is home to the largest Arab-American community in the United States. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Lecture Series

Several informative lectures were delivered over the past several months as part of the HAM Lecture Series. On April 6, the Institute's own scholars spoke about new evidence of the biblical tribe of Reuben. Paul J. Ray, Jr., Chief Archaeologist at Tell Hesban, and Madaba Plains Project Directors Randall W. Younker and Øystein S. LaBianca, shared recent discoveries and new interpretations of known data.

Younker summarized archaeological

evidence, including pottery parallels between sites in Transjordan and the West Bank. LaBianca discussed sedentarization among nomads, citing ethnographic examples. Ray completed the presentation with a discussion of Iron Age material from Tell Hesban.

On May 11, Mark W. Chavalas, Professor of History at University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, presented an illustrated lecture entitled "Terqa: The Middle Euphrates Region of Syria During the Time of the Patriarchs." The site is located just north of Mari.

Terqa was established ca. 3200 BC as a small village. During the third millennium BC, the village expanded into a large urban settlement with a city wall. By 700 BC, the wall was 16 m thick. The site was surrounded by a moat filled with water from the Euphrates River. One hundred cuneiform tablets have been found scattered across the site. Most of these are

student exercises and math texts.

Chavalas has excavated for nine seasons at several sites in Syria, including Terqa. He has also edited and written books on ancient Syria.

Tel Ta'anach was the subject of a lecture delivered by Frank S. Frick, Professor of Religious Studies, Albion College (MI). Tel Ta'anach is located 8 km S/SE of Megiddo. Frick focused on cult and social regulation during the Iron I period (1200-1000 BC).

Frick presented research on cultic areas at the site and stressed that the function of religion should be understood within the larger context of society in general. Installations that archaeologists label as "cultic" did not necessarily function only in that role but may have served commercial or domestic purposes as well.

William H. Shea, Associate Director of the Biblical Research Institute in Silver Spring, MD, drew a large crowd with his discussion of the location of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. Shea proposed that Jesus was buried somewhere in the Kidron Valley. This is an alternative view to the traditional location of the tomb beneath the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which is often cited as the most likely burial place. (Paul J. Ray Jr., Jennifer L. Groves)

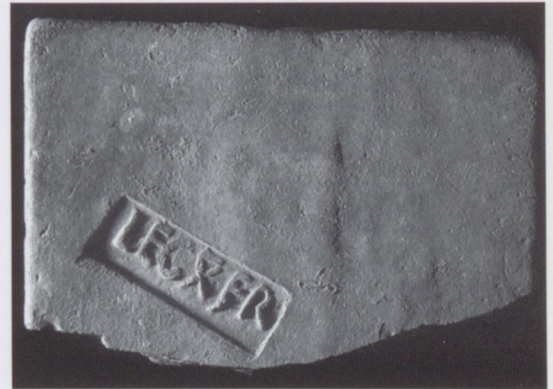


Frank S. Frick

Inscriptions Published

Twenty-two previously unpublished inscriptions form the HAM Collection have been included in *Greek and Latin Inscriptions in the USA: A Checklist* (American Academy in Rome, 1997). The volume, edited by John Bodel, Rutgers University, and Stephen V. Tracy, Ohio State University, catalogs inscriptions from academic institutions, museums, and private collectors. It is the outcome of the U.S. Epigraphy Project, centered in the Department of Classics at Rutgers University.

The HAM collection includes twenty Greek and two Latin inscriptions. The Greek inscriptions are comprised of ostraca, Rhodian jar handles, a ceramic plaque, and 13 Byzantine lamps. Most of the lamp inscriptions read "The light of Christ shines beautifully for all." The Latin examples include a lead medallion inscribed with the words "A child is born to us," a reference to Isaiah 9:6. The other Latin inscription is a ceramic brick with a stamp from the Tenth Roman Legion, the Legion famous for its part in conquering Jerusalem and Masada (AD 70 and 73, respectively). (Jennifer L. Groves)



Fragment of Roman brick: Legion X Fretensis.



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RANDOM SURVEY

The Museum welcomed more than 280 visitors over the Spring quarter. Group tours were conducted for 30 members from the Lakeshore Spanish Seventh-day Adventist church in Chicago, 18 members from the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Stevensville, MI, and 8 individuals from an adult care facility in Bridgman, MI. Two elementary school groups also toured the exhibits: 40 students from Fairplain Northeast Elementary in Benton Harbor, MI and 27 students from the Seventh-day Adventist Village Church school in Berrien Springs, MI.

The Institute and Museum gratefully acknowledge the generous donations of Dr. and Mrs. Mike Friedman of Alhambra, CA and Dr. Ramona Richli Clark of Santa Barbara, CA. Thank you for your support!

To discover more about archaeology, the Institute, and the Museum, contact us at:

VOX: 616-471-3273

FAX: 616-471-3619

E-mail: hornmusm@andrews.edu

or visit our Web site at:

www.andrews.edu/ARCHAEOLOGY

Every MPP excavation is truly an international endeavor. There are 151 staff members and participants this season representing 17 different countries. The majority (104 people) come from the United States with smaller contingents from Poland, Canada, and Sweden (14, 11, and 5 participants, respectively). Other countries represented include: Belarus, Bolivia, Croatia, England, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Kenya, Korea, Norway, Palestine, the Philippines, and Zimbabwe.

The Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago, home to one of the world's finest exhibits of ancient Near Eastern artifacts, has been closed since the spring of 1996, undergoing extensive renovations. The Museum is slated to re-open this winter. For informative progress reports, visit the following web site:

http://www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/INFO/LEGACY/Leg_Progress_Reports.html

The Institute bids a fond farewell to editorial assistant Erin Westfall. Erin will be pursuing a degree in anthropology at the University of South Florida. We wish her continued success!

NEWSLETTER



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RANDOM SURVEY

Rami G. Khouri, an Amman-based syndicated journalist, has featured Tell Jalul and Tell Hesban on four occasions in *Jordan Times* articles this year. The Tell Jalul article appeared in the July 20 issue; articles on Tell Hesban appeared in the March 23, March 30, and August 2 issues. The *Jordan Times* may be accessed at <http://www.accessme.com/jordantimes/>. We thank Rami for his continuing interest in archaeology.

We are proud to announce the reprinting of the book *Peoples of the Old Testament World*, now available in paperback (\$24.99). Each chapter discusses a particular people group mentioned in the Bible (e.g. Assyrians, Hittites, Babylonians). The book is authored by various specialists, including Institute Director Randall W. Younker, who contributed a chapter on the Ammonites. Contact Baker Books at 1-800-877-2665 or www.bakerbooks.com for your copy.

To discover more about Biblical Archaeology, the Institute, and the Museum, contact us at:

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This November, the annual meetings of the Society of Biblical Languages, the Near Eastern Archaeological Society, and the American Schools of Oriental Research will take place in Orlando, FL. Institute personnel presenting papers at these meetings include Randall W. Younker, David Merling, Øystein S. LaBianca, and Paul J. Ray, Jr. We wish them luck in their lectures.

The German Protestant Institute of Archaeology in the Holy Land (GPI) recently announced that it has successfully averted the planned closure of its facilities in Amman and Jerusalem. Both research centers were slated for closure in September, 1997 due to budget cuts by the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD). Thanks in part to a successful letter-writing campaign by the Near Eastern archaeological community, in which this Institute participated, the German government has stepped in and agreed to provide financial support for the Institute and the EKD has pledged its continued support. Congratulations to the GPI on a successful lobbying campaign!

Even though excavations just closed, it is not too early to start planning for Jalul 1999. End the millennium with a trip to the Middle East. Contact the Institute for more information on this exciting endeavor!

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