COINS OF BIBLE LANDS EXHIBIT

The interest which people have in their past has been demonstrated by the popularity of the Roots novel and television series. However, while Roots dealt mainly with written and spoken sources to reconstruct the past, by far the greater part of our history does not have these sources to rely upon. In such cases attention must be turned to the study of the material remains left by our ancestors for the reconstruction of their past.

The interest that can be generated by this kind of reconstruction also is shown by the best-selling novel The Source by James Michener, who reconstructs the history of a Mid-eastern tell based on various objects of interest which were supposedly found there. Though the details of Michener's vivid stories are largely creations of his imagination with the artifacts themselves serving as stimulus and inspiration, this same sort of reconstruction can be carried out in a more detailed and accurated manner to reach supportable conclusions and provide an enlightening look at the way ancient people actually thought, felt, worked and interacted.

Just such a study has been done by Harold Mattingly, a foremost authority on Roman coins. In his book The Man in the Roman Street, Mattingly reconstructs the thoughts and actions of the common man of the Roman Empire, based primarily on the study of Roman coins.

From coins, we can learn of the history, economics, politics, religion, art, philosophy, lifestyle and attitudes of the peoples by whom and for whom the coins were made. Says Mattingly, "As I have worked out the details of the coinage of the Roman Empire and collated them with all that
promised to throw light on them in literature and inscrip-
tions, I have gradually realized that I was looking at some-
thing of quite extraordinary human interest—a mirror of the
common man in Roman times, his concerns, his hopes, his
fears, his attitude toward his sovereign, his fellow-
countrymen and his gods."

Dealing as he does with common people and their simple
actions rather than royalty and their wars and politics only
(as most history books tend to do), he brings the study of
the past through coins closer to the heart of the modern
common man, thus bringing the past alive for him.

Bringing the past perhaps even closer to home is the
study of Jewish coins: whereas the study of Rome and Roman
coins tends to deal primarily with an empire, the study of
the Jews and Jewish coins deal with a people. And because
of the place of the Jews in history, a study of their his-
tory and culture is significant to Jews, Christians and
Moslems alike. It is this wide, cross-cultural appeal that
makes the study of Jewish coins particularly rewarding.

It was with these things in mind that the Horn Archaeo-
logical Museum presented the "Coins of Bible Lands" exhibit.
Under the directorship of Stan Hudson, and made possible by
a grant from the Michigan Council for the Humanities, about
half of the Museum's main display hall was set up to present
the Museum's collection of more than 800 ancient coins.

Running from April 20 to May 18, the exhibit was
visited by thousands of interested people from out of state
as well as locally. Among the things that they learned was
what was used before coins were invented, how coins were
minted, how they illustrate history, economics, religion,
art and much more, and how to tell a counterfeit or a modern
copy from the original. Three illustrated lectures were
included in the program where expert numismatists shared
their knowledge and fascination with coins with the public.

Though the main part of this display has been taken
down, many of the Museum's most impressive and significant
coins from Bible Lands are still on display, ranging from
the widow's mite to the Judea Capta coin, illustrating the
defeat of the Jews in the first century A.D. The public is
invited to come and see them.

Also, the Horn Archaeological Museum is pleased to
announce that a limited number of replicas of the Heshbon
coin are available for sale. These coins are fine copies of
the coin that was minted in ancient Heshbon, the site which
has been excavated by Andrews University and where the
original coin was found. The price to Museum members is
$5.00, and includes a description of the coin, its place in history, and its significance for us today. (See the back of this newsletter for a sketch of one side of this coin, with the inscription "ESBOUS"—Heshbon—at the bottom.)

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**FORMAT CHANGE**

Some of our readers have brought it to our attention that the small type previously used in printing the Museum Newsletter was sometimes hard to read, particularly for those with poor eyesight to begin with. So, in an attempt to provide our readers with a better Newsletter, we have changed our format slightly to make use of larger, more readable type.

This of course has resulted in less room for articles and notices. However, the Museum is happy to inform you that this is just a temporary dilemma. Beginning with the Winter issue of this Newsletter (or even the Fall issue, if the Fates are kind), the Museum will be doing its printing on a new Sanders typographic printer, which will allow for larger, more readable type and permit more room for text—not to mention producing a much neater, more pleasant-appearing Newsletter.

This printer will be a fine addition to the Museum, saving tens of thousands of dollars on the Museum's publishing projects (which include this Newsletter). But at the same time it is an expensive piece of equipment, costing around $6,000.

We are therefore inviting our members and friends to participate in this aspect of the Museum's growth. Your contribution will help the Museum to provide better, more professional services—to members, scholars and the general public alike. And remember, your contribution is tax deductible.

The Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Museum
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Michigan 49104
THE MADABA PLAINS PROJECT

When the first issue of our Newsletter went out tentative plans had been made to begin work at Tell Jalul, Jordan in the Summer of 1980. Since that report was published some changes in the timetable have been made. Lawrence T. Geraty, director of the project, felt it was best to hold back on beginning a new large-scale excavation until the final reports of the previous work at Tell Hesban could be published.

This work is progressing and the type is currently being set for volume one out of an estimated ten volumes. Most of the material for volume two is also in hand and the various contributors to this publication project have made sufficient progress so we can be optimistic enough to announce 1982 as the year when the last volume will go to press.

1982 is also the current date for beginning the Madaba Plains Project. In this new excavation work plans are being made to use a microcomputer in the field. This will aid in keeping consistent and complete records, preliminary analysis of the data which can be used in defining excavation strategy in certain problem areas, and making access to previously recorded data faster and more manageable. Until we are ready for the field work to begin time will be spent developing and testing the appropriate computer software.
OXFORD CONFERENCE

Andrews University and the Horn Archaeological Museum have had a special interest in Jordan, its history and archaeology ever since we began archaeological excavations at Tell Hesban (Biblical Heshbon) in 1968. This interest has continued to grow through the years with five seasons of excavation at Heshbon (1968, 1971, 1973, 1974 and 1976), and with plans to begin excavation of a new site at Tell Jalul, beginning in the summer of 1982 (see p. 4).

This interest has been shared by a large number of scholars worldwide, but it was only last March that, for the first time, these scholars were able to come together to begin to lay plans for the pooling of their knowledge and the coordination of their future work in the study of the history and archaeology of Jordan.

The First International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan was held 25-31 March 1980 at Christ Church, Oxford, England, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan. It was opened by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and was attended by scholars from 25 nations, including Dr. Lawrence T. Geraty of Andrews University.

This first conference was designed to lay the groundwork for a series of biennial conferences and therefore, instead of concentrating on one topic or one period, as future conferences will do, set out to survey the whole vast range of Jordanian history from the Early Neolithic to the Later Ottoman period. The papers presented conveyed effectively the extraordinary wealth contained within so small a country.

It was out of a need for a complete environmental and archaeological picture of Jordan as well as the need for the coordination of the archaeological work at present being done piecemeal in the various Arab countries that Crown Prince Hassan so strongly urged the development in Jordan of an international center for Middle Eastern history and archaeology. This would start on a relatively small scale as a means of bringing together the work done separately by existing institutions.

An international advisory committee has been formed too assist with this project and also to help in the planning of future conferences. It will meet for the first time in Amman, Jordan, during the first week of November.

(A more detailed account of the Conference appears in the Summer issue of Biblical Archaeologist.)
RECENT ACQUISITIONS

While in England for the Oxford conference on Transjordanian archaeology (see p. 5) Dr. L. T. Geraty, the curator of the S. H. Horn Archaeological Museum, was presented with a large bowl from the Iron II period. Palle Olsen, a Danish graduate of Newbold College, who donated the bowl to the Museum, had obtained it while serving as a missionary in Israel. The bowl had three loop handles which served as a tripodal base but they were all broken off. This characteristic was first introduced in the Middle Bronze II period and saw a later resurgence in the Iron Age.

Fifteen Roman coins, one silver and the rest bronze, all in very good condition, were added to the collection of the Museum early this summer. The coins were a gift of the Segala and Recha families of Barcelona, Spain. Antonio Bueno, the conference president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Spain, made the official presentation of these fifteen coins dating from the time of Augustus to Valentinian II, to the president of the University, Dr. J. G. Smoot.

Dr. Harold Coffin of the Geoscience Research Institute presented 32 North American projectile points to the Museum. The mostly arrowhead assemblage came from two unidentified private collections and a preliminary study by Gary Witz, a student at Andrews Academy, indicates that the projectile points date from the Archaic through the Woodland to the Contact periods.

Two more Islamic bronze coins were added to our coin collection through a gift of Dr. Siegfried H. Horn, the founder of the Museum. The coins as well as a pendant in the shape of a human foot from Chagar Bazar were given to Dr. Horn by Mr. Nazem Jabri, Deputy Director of the National Museum of Aleppo, Syria.

It is through contributions like these by members and friends of the Museum that we keep a finger on our pulse. Our vitality is directly related to the interest and support we receive from our friends. To you who enriched our holdings we extend our greatest appreciation and most heartfelt thank you.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, CHICAGO, IL
"The Great Bronze Age in China: An Exhibition from the People's Republic of China" (August 20 - October 29, 1980), surveys the artistic achievements of the Chinese Bronze Age culture with 105 recently excavated works, featuring eight life-size terracotta warriors and horses, part of a group of 7500, dating ca. 221-210 B.C.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, SEMINARY HALL CHAPEL, BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI
"Archaeology at Shechem: A Case Study in Biblical Archaeology" (8:00 p.m., Thursday, October 9, 1980) lecture by Edward F. Campbell, McCormick Theological Seminary.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, JOHNSON AUDITORIUM, BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI
"The Recent Search for Noah's Ark on Mt. Ararat" (2:00 - 7:00 p.m., Saturday, October 25, 1980) film and lecture by Eryl A. Cummings, Farmington, NM.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI
"Renewed Excavation at Capernaum, the City Jesus Loved" (8:00 p.m., Thursday, November 13, 1980) lecture by Herold Weiss, St. Mary's College.

DISCOVER A NEW WORLD COLUMBUS DAY

COME WITH US TO THE FIELD MUSEUM AND ORIENTAL INSTITUTE IN CHICAGO!

The Horn Archaeological Museum is sponsoring a field trip to Chicago on Sunday, October 12. The trip will include round-trip bus transportation from the Andrews University campus, guided tours of the Chinese Bronze Age Exhibit (see announcement above), and of the Oriental Institute with Dr. Lawrence T. Geraty of Andrews University and the Oriental Institute staff, as well as a slide lecture on the wonders of ancient Egypt. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis, so call the Horn Museum right away at (616) 471-3273 so you won't miss this opportunity! Transportation and entrance fees are $7.50 for Museum members, $8.50 for non-members. The bus will leave the Seminary parking lot at 9:00 A.M. And bring a sack lunch!