

# The Institute of Archaeology

## HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

### WHAT HAPPENED TO JALUL 1982?

Most readers of the *Newsletter* will have heard by now that the first season of the Andrews University Madaba Plains Project including the excavation of Tell Jalul which was scheduled for the summer of 1982 had to be postponed due to a decision by the Jordanian government authorities just two weeks before it was to start. Many friends have wondered how all this came about. Even though we don't have all the answers, here is what we can say.

Back in March of 1982 the Prime Minister of Jordan banned all further archaeological work in the Madaba District where our project is located. He felt compelled to do this because of a fundamentalist group's unauthorized search for the ark of the covenant on Mt. Nebo the preceding November and all the subsequent negative publicity that it had generated since that time. Mt. Nebo is just to the west of Madaba, while Tell Jalul is just to its east. Because the Jalul Project had nothing to do with the ark, the Department of Antiquities successfully sought an exemption from the Prime Minister's office for the Jalul project. So Andrews University continued to prepare for its work in the vicinity.

After all was in readiness, logistical plans finalized, the staff ready to travel to Jordan, the government received word in early June that several new initiatives on the part of American fundamentalist groups to look for the ark were under way. This news of a search for what many Arabs consider a "Zionist relic" came in the midst of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

This special confluence of circumstances made the Jordanians nervous; consequently the decision to postpone the Jalul project. They realized the latter project had nothing to do with the ark search, but the physical proximity could have been a problem to the government.

This decision came as a real shock to all of us connected with the dig. Mike Blaine, our dig administrator, was already in Amman and had completed many of the arrangements that were necessary for housing the staff. He and Larry Geraty consulted by phone and the latter left on schedule the day the sad news arrived. Geraty visited various government offices and in each was told that there was nothing that anyone on the staff could have done to prevent the decision. It was made due to circumstances completely beyond our control. We were assured that we would be welcome to return at a later time.

We felt particularly sorry for each staff member who had so carefully planned the details of his or her summer's activities, and who, because of the last-minute nature of the cancellation, inevitably lost both time and money. Each staff member took the decision philosophically—a real testimony to the group's loyalty.

## LATE NEWS

Latest bulletin from Jordan about THE MADABA PLAINS PROJECT on page 5.

Unfortunately this is not the first time that Andrews University has faced such a problem in Jordan. The initial season of the Heshbon project originally scheduled for 1967 had to be cancelled because of the Six Day War. Then again the second season had to be cancelled in 1970 because of King Hussein's initiative against the armed Palestinians residing in Jordan. Since that time, however, there have been no problems until this last summer. This is one of the risks we must take for working in the Middle East. In our opinion, however, the risk is worth it because of the potential of what we can learn from a project such as the one we had planned.

Following are two letters which indicate the esteem in which our project is held and that people in Jordan are looking forward to our return.

#### MEMO

12 June 1982

TO: Friends and Supporters of the Jalul Project

FROM: Dr. David W. McCreery

RE: Status of the Jalul Project

Dear Colleague,

Tragedy has once again struck the Middle East with renewed armed conflict over the past week. Unfortunately, the increase in political tensions has resulted in the

postponement of the Jalul Project. It is important to note that this is a postponement caused by the current political situation, not a cancellation.

Two days ago I met with the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, His Excellency Ma'an Abu Nuwar. The Minister assured me that this was a difficult decision for the Jordanian Government and one which was arrived at reluctantly. Lest any misunderstandings arise, he stressed the high regard with which the Government holds the Jalul staff and the objectives of the project and expressed his desire for the excavation to proceed as soon as the political situation allows.

I sincerely hope that this last minute change of plans does not diminish your interest in, and support of the Jalul Project. ACOR and the Department of Antiquities have great confidence in Dr. Geraty and his staff and remain committed to getting the project into the field at the earliest possible date.

David W. McCreery, Ph.D.  
ACOR Director

14 July, 1982

Dr. Lawrence T. Geraty  
Associate Professor  
Archaeology and History of Antiquities  
Andrews University  
Berrien Springs, Michigan 49104  
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Geraty:

The purpose of this letter is to reassure you of the Department of Antiquities whole-hearted support of the Jalul Project despite the problems which forced postponement of the excavation this summer. I believe that you understand that political problems beyond the control of the Department necessitated the postponement. This by no means should be viewed as a lack of interest in the project on the part of the Department of Antiquities, on the contrary, we will do everything within our power to ensure that your field work can proceed in the summer of 1983.

#### INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY-HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Editor: J. Bjørnar Storfjell  
Editorial Assistant: David Merling

The Newsletter is published four times a year by the Institute of Archaeology, Andrews University. Annual subscription price is \$7.50. Museum membership, subscription, and editorial correspondence should be addressed to The Horn Archaeological Museum, Institute of Archaeology, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49104.

In light of the hundreds of hours spent in planning and preparation, I realize that the postponement came as a tremendous disappointment to a great many people, myself included. I would appreciate it if you would extend my personal regrets to those who lost money and had to revise their plans for the summer due to this last minute turn of events. Please assure them that we will do everything we can to make sure this does not happen again.

Although I regret that plans for this year's season could not be realized, I am looking forward to having you and your team working in Jordan next summer.

Yours sincerely

Adnan Hadidi  
Director

- Lawrence T. Geraty

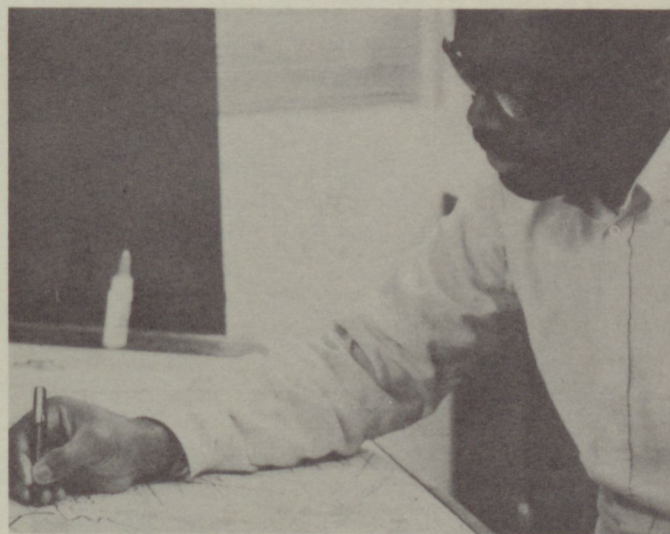


#### INSTITUTE SURVEY LAB ESTABLISHED

A new survey lab has recently been added to the Institute of Archaeology. The new research facility is located in the basement of the renovated building which is the new home of the Archaeological Museum as well as the Institute. The lab has been equipped with map files, a drawing board, two study carrels, filing cabinets and bookshelves. Coordinating the activities of the lab will be Øystein LaBianca who will be heading up the regional survey to be carried out in conjunction with the Madaba Plains Project.

A major project presently underway in the lab involves the preparation of a variety of maps of the region between the Jabbok and Arnon rivers--the area to be investigated by the survey team next summer. Various maps prepared by the government of Jordan as well as earlier maps prepared by colonial governments and explorers who visited the region in previous centuries are being redrawn to the same scale so as to obtain a clearer picture of the changes which have occurred over time in settlement patterns and landuse in this region.

This type of information about recent changes within the project area has already provided numerous clues to what was happening thousands of years ago in the same region. For example, over the past one hundred years, the inhabitants of this region changed from being nomadic tent and cave dwellers to living first, in fortified stone buildings in small isolated villages to, later, living in larger villages and towns. These changes in settlement pattern coincided with changes in landuse: from nomadic pastoralism, to grain and vegetable farming, to fruit farming. A similar intensification of settlement and food production appears to have taken place during the time of the Hebrew monarchy, the Early Christian Era and during the Ayyubid-Mamluk period (ca 1200-1400 A.D.), judging from the changes in the location and density of ancient sites and other archaeological information from those ancient times. Interestingly, each such intensification epoch seems to have ended in a major collapse of the whole system, following which the most resilient way of life returns, namely the way of the nomadic sheep and camel pastoralists.



David Agboka preparing a map.

We are very fortunate to have David Agboka assisting us with the map redrawing aspect of this project. David is an M.B.A. student in the School of Business here at Andrews who has previously had ten years of experience as a high school geography teacher in Ghana. His B.A. from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, was in geography as well.

Also helping in the survey lab is Kevin Renshaw of Battle Creek, Michigan. He is currently working on an associate degree in mechanical engineering technology in the School of Technology here at Andrews. Kevin has been helping with drafting of tables and figures illustrating changes in landuse with the survey area over the past 100 years.

During the coming months, additional help will be needed to assist with compiling an index of place-names and a site-inventory for the places named on the maps being redrawn by David. Interested volunteers should contact Øystein LaBlanca (473-5095) for further information about how to become a volunteer helper in the survey lab.

- Øystein LaBlanca



#### A NEW NEWSLETTER

This double issue of the *Newsletter* introduces a new format. Peter Erhard of the art department at Andrews University produced the design for the front and back pages. The logo at a forty-five degree angle can be read as either the letter I or the letter H. The lines give the impression of looking into a series of excavated squares with the balks removed and seeing the stratigraphy, a very fitting logo for the Institute of Archaeology and the Horn Archaeological Museum. We want to compliment Peter Erhard on the fine work he has done.

Instead of duplicating the *Newsletter* it will now be printed on an offset press making it possible to use photographic pictures. We hope that this improvement will make a more pleasing *Newsletter* and that it will encourage written contributions of interest to our readers and museum members. Let us know how you feel about the new format and layout and we also solicit your comments, questions, and remarks on any of the articles printed in the *Newsletter*. If your letter is of common interest we will publish it so that we can have more interaction among the museum members.



- JBS

#### THE MADABA PLAINS PROJECT 1983

Andrews University is seeking permission from the Jordanian government to go ahead and plan for fielding the first season of the long-planned Madaba Plains Project this coming summer. Despite the last-minute postponement of the dig which occurred in June 1982, the situation in the Middle East has improved to the point that no similar problems are expected. Obviously the situation in the Middle East is never predictable, but if one were to wait for absolute certainty of peace and quiet, one would probably never be able to plan for anything. The dates that have been chosen for Andrews' new dig are June 15 to August 5.

This new project aims to continue the research objectives initiated by Siegfried Horn when he began the excavation of Tell Hesban in 1968. Ten years of work there uncovered 19 cities superimposed one upon the other over a course of 2700 years. The earliest town was founded at that site about 1200 B.C. Now the Andrews University group is moving east 6 miles to Tell Jalul where human occupation of the region goes back certainly through the period of the biblical Patriarchs to the beginning of the Early Bronze Age (about 3000 B.C.) and perhaps even into the Stone Age. Eventually the team will discover how people in this central part of Jordan--in what the Bible calls the *Mishor*--have lived and coped with their environment and resources since the beginning of time. Jalul's ancient name is not known. If we could discover that and how the data we uncover is related to biblical history, we will feel our efforts will have been even more worthwhile.

The Madaba Plains Project will give scores of students, professors, clergymen, scientists, homemakers and professionals a taste of life in the Holy Land--from biblical times to the present. It is an unparalleled opportunity for many volunteers. There are three options for participation in the project.

The first option is participation in all seven weeks of the dig for \$1799. This fee includes full board, room, 12 quarter hours of graduate or undergraduate credit, excavation manual, weekend trips, and a dig T-shirt. Those participating in the second option would work for only the first half of

the dig for a fee of \$999. This also includes full board, room, 6 quarter hours of graduate or undergraduate credit, a dig manual, weekend trips, and a dig T-shirt. This group too, would leave New York June 13 at the latest, but would complete their work at the site on July 8. Again the roundtrip cost from New York would be \$699.

Those participating in a third option would dig for only the second half of the project, again for \$999. Just as with option 2, this fee includes full board, room, 6 quarter hours of graduate or undergraduate credit, excavation manual, weekend trips, and a dig T-shirt. This group would leave New York July 9 at the latest and work at the site until August 5. Because travel would be in high season, the roundtrip ticket from New York would be \$799.

The roundtrip transportation costs quoted above are based on our prices as of November 1982. For participants in options 1 and 2 who wish to take advantage of a guided package tour of Israel and Egypt, the dig is sponsoring such an experience of a lifetime May 31 to June 14 for only \$750 extra (including board, room, transportation, entrance fees--4 hours of optional academic credit \$412 extra). It will be led by Madaba Plains Project core staff member Bjørnar Storfjell, an Old Testament professor at Andrews University and assistant curator of the Horn Archaeological Museum.

Accommodations for the 75-member international team who will be digging at Jalul will be at a girls' secondary school in nearby Madaba. This school will serve as the project's summer headquarters and will accommodate the dig offices, computer room, photographic dark-room, drafting room, pottery and object processing labs, ecology lab, kitchen and dining area, dormitories, common room and lecture hall. Turkish toilet facilities and washrooms are in a separate building. Before the dig starts, temporary shower facilities will be constructed in the school compound.

Because of the unexpected extra year available in planning the first season of excavations, the staff is better prepared for their work. By March of 1983 it expects to have published a book containing the following parts: Introduction, History of Research, Madaba Plains Region in the Bible, Research Design for Jalul, Research

Design for Field of Random Squares, Research Design for Column Sampling, Research Design for Madaba Plains Survey, Madaba Plains Field Manual, Madaba Plains Field Handbook, The Computer at Jalul, and a Heshbon Bibliography.

The Heshbon Project, just now in its publication phase, has received high marks for its accomplishments. In a forthcoming book, Dr. William Dever, Vice president of the American Schools of Oriental Research and editor of its *Bulletin*, says, "The Heshbon project, with its five published volumes of preliminary reports, is in my opinion the best example yet in our field of the potential of environmental archaeology--this despite the fact that it is a church-related project that normally I would place in a category of the older 'Biblical Archaeology' school."

The staff preparing to leave for Jalul feels as though it has gained much valuable experience from its work at Heshbon, but looks forward to making an even more valuable contribution with its work on the Madaba Plains and at Jalul. There is no doubt that the Madaba Plains Project will serve as one of the best training grounds for those who are interested in a first-class educational experience in field archaeology.

— Lawrence T. Geraty



## LATE NEWS

# BULLETIN

### MADABA PLAINS PROJECT POSTPONED AGAIN

As the layout work for this issue of the *Newsletter* was being completed we received word from Jordan that a permit to start our work on the Madaba Plains Project could

not be issued at this time. In consultation with Dr. Lawrence T. Geraty, the director of the project who is in Australia at the present time, it was decided to publish the letter from His Excellency, Ma'an Abu Nuwar, the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in order to present as accurate a picture as possible to the friends and supporters of our Institute of Archaeology.

I am very sorry to inform you that I am not at this moment of time in a position to approve this project for 1983.

23. 12. 1982

Professor Lawrence T. Geraty  
Andrews University  
Berrien Springs, Michigan 49104  
U.S.A.

Dear Professor Geraty,

Your letter of November 16, 1982 concerning your proposed project for the Madaba Plains (the archaeological excavation of Tell Jalul) was taken into very serious consideration and lengthy discussions. While I am very well aware of the historical and archaeological significance of excavating Tell Jalul and the study of its environs, I am very sorry to inform you that I am not at this moment of time in a position to approve this project for 1983. Apart from the sensitivity of the situation in general, there are specific problems relating to the site of Jalul that have to be dealt with first before any excavation permit can be issued. One such problem is the large modern cemetery on top of the tell which contains the grave of the only dear son of the main Sheikh of the Beni Sakhr Tribe who was killed by the Israelis when they attacked Jordanian army positions at the battle of Karama in 1968. The Madaba Plains Project must be postponed for a while. I sincerely hope that such a postponement will not cause much inconvenience to you and your colleagues and that it will not slow the momentum of what you hope to achieve for Jordan. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation on this matter.

Assuring you of my very best wishes and considerations.

Yours sincerely

Ma'an Abu Nuwar  
Minister of Tourism & Antiquities

cc. to Director of Antiquities.

The Minister expresses his concern for the modern cemetery located at the site of Tell Jalul, a concern which we share with him. It has always been our goal to be sensitive to Jordanian local customs based on the rich cultural and religious heritage of Islam and we would not want to include in our research design strategies which would be seen as contrary to this heritage.



#### MUSEUM RECEIVES NEW COMPUTERS

The Horn Archaeological Museum recently received four new microcomputers manufactured by the Heath/Zenith Corporation. The new equipment complements the computer hardware which the museum already owned and can thus readily be integrated in our data management process.

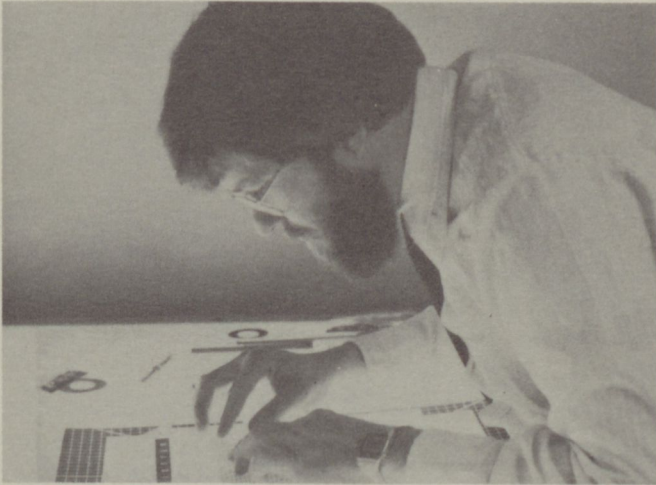
Since the acquisition of the new computers we have been able to make increased use of student help in our single largest project, the publication of the Hartford Cuneiform Tablet Collection and the final publications of the Tell Hesban Excavation.

One computer was donated by each of the following families: Dr. and Mrs. G. R. Fattic of Niles, Michigan; Dr. and Mrs. Ronald D. Geraty of Marblehead, Massachusetts; Dr. and Mrs. C. Stanley Lloyd, of Boring, Oregon. One computer was a combined donation of the following families: Dr. and Mrs. Theodore Chamberlain of Berrien Springs, Michigan, Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Little of Berrien Springs, Michigan, Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Olsen of Loma Linda, California, and Drs. William H. and Karen Shea of Berrien Springs, Michigan. The Museum wishes to express its deep gratitude for these generous donations.



## EDITORIAL ASSISTANT FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Dave Merling has been working as a pastor and evangelist for the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the past eight years. He is currently enrolled as a full time student in the Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Dave will assist in all production facets of the *Newsletter*.



David Merling at work on the *Newsletter*.



## INVEST IN GEMSTONES

The economic crisis has caused us all to rethink our ideas about the security and long term viability of our investments. Diamonds, once thought of as among the safest of long term investments, have tumbled quite sharply of late due to a number of factors. Despite this setback the traffic in colored gemstones has steadily increased due to the absence of a heavily manipulated market. This has resulted in the appraised and the actual values being much more realistic.

The Institute of Archaeology has access to a large collection of investment quality colored gemstones from Australia including superbly faceted Zircons of between one and twenty carats; a small supply of unworked Aquamarine; magnificent opal of various grades and sizes including Queensland matrix which is a mixture of brilliant fiery reds, blues, and greens, swirled within a hard base of ironstone; also beautiful milk opal solids from a new area in the Northern Territory; and various others.

Should any of our members or their friends wish to discuss the possibility of acquiring some of these investment gemstones for their private or corporate security portfolios, and thereby help the financial base of the Institute, they should feel free to contact Colin House at the Museum. Prior to his Graduate program at Andrews he was a Mortgage Finance Broker and Investment Consultant in Melbourne, the financial capital of Australia and the South Pacific. He assures you of prompt, confidential, and personal attention to your security investment enquiries.



## BOGDANOVICH JOINS INSTITUTE STAFF

Joining the Institute of Archaeology staff in October as administrative secretary is Mrs. Bea Bogdanovich. In addition to secretarial duties, she has a special interest in the design of museum displays. Her hobbies and interests include foreign travel, art and decorating.



Administrative Secretary, Bea Bogdanovich.

Her previous secretarial positions include three years at the Theological Seminary in the Church and Ministry department and ten years at the Walla Walla College counseling and testing center in College Place, Washington.

Her husband Michael is director of Andrews University Independent Operations, and their daughter Patti is a student at Andrews.

## ELIZABETH PLATT WORKS IN THE MUSEUM DURING THE SUMMER

When plans were being laid in the spring to move the museum from the library to its new location on the corner of College Avenue and Seminary Drive (see *Newsletter*, vol. 3, no. 4) we were also making plans to spend the summer excavating at Tell Jalul. The entire museum staff would have been in Jordan consequently Dr. Elizabeth E. Platt (see *Newsletter*, vol. 2, no. 4 and vol. 3, no. 1) was contacted and asked to spend the summer putting away our small objects in the storage rooms at the new location. This she agreed to and spent the summer organizing our storage area, classifying the objects according to types with storage space left for the anticipated growth of our collection.

Dr. Platt has been here at the museum several times before when she was working on the jewelry from the Heshbon excavations. Her work has been greatly appreciated and her cheerful disposition is always an inspiration. The museum staff wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to Dr. Platt for the invaluable assistance she gave us during the summer.



**Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Museum**

Andrews University  
Berrien Springs, Michigan 49104



## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HELP MUSEUM

During Fall quarter ten students from eight different countries began compiling information that will lead to exhibits in the museum.

Under the direction of Dr. Lawrence Geraty and Bjørnar Storfjell each of the students spent up to ten hours per week researching the life style, living conditions and cultural milieu of twelve chosen time periods and/or regions. In the future this research will be used by artists and resident archaeologists to structure a series of displays planned for the main floor at the new location of the Horn Archaeological Museum.

Those taking part in this research project, their home country, and their area of study were: Girma Dante, (Ethiopia), Africa; Colin House, (Australia), Early and Middle Bronze; Robert Ivey, (Michigan), Michiana Indians; Stretko Kubic, (Yugoslavia), Hellenistic; David Merling, (Michigan), Late Bronze and Iron I; Shadrack Murage, (Kenya), Islamic; Paul Scavella, (Bahamas), Byzantine; Gek-Bee Siow, (Malaysia), Byzantine; Archi Tupas, (Philippines), Roman; Rodney Wright, (California), Iron II and Persian.

Financing for the project came from the "Special Projects" fund of Andrews University.

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