



# The Institute of Archaeology

## HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

### A Preliminary Report on THE MADABA PLAINS PROJECT'S 1984 Season at Tell-el Umeiri

Lawrence T. Geraty

The initial season at Tell el-Umeiri is now history. What was accomplished and what is its significance? Even the first drafts of most preliminary specialty reports are not yet in so it is obviously premature to attempt a definitive answer to those questions. Much can be said, however. What follows is a report in embryo for staff, friends, and supporters.

In general, the results exceeded our expectations. This is due to the intrinsic importance of the site which has hitherto gone largely unrecognized, the quality of the efforts of staff members who worked together cooperatively as a team, our collective experience and insights gained from the preceding work at Tell Hesban, and the blessings of God.

For the benefit of those unacquainted with the project let me make some other general remarks before proceeding to a more detailed report of our findings. First of all, why was this particular site chosen for investigation? Sixteen years ago, in the summer of 1968, Andrews University, in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities in Jordan and the American Schools of Oriental Research, began its investigations of the natural and cultural history of the Madaba Plains area east of the northern end of the Dead Sea. During six seasons of archaeological excavations at Tell Hesban and numerous surveys of the region within a 10km radius of that site as

well as sustained subsequent inquiry, we have begun to identify some of the actors involved in the historical drama produced in the region. Also coming to light are the stage (or natural environment) upon which this drama was enacted and the outlines of the script (the cultural blueprint by which human activity was governed) which these actors appear to have followed.

The purpose of the new field effort from June 18 to August 8, 1984, centered at Tell el-Umeiri in the foothills of the northern edge of the Madaba Plains, was to enable our survey/dig team to begin to validate and elaborate the account which our efforts have yielded to date. Specifically, we wished to expand the temporal and spatial frame of our investigations so as to be able to test hypotheses derived from our limited inquiries at Hesban and its vicinity using a wider range of cultural materials and greatly improved methods of instrumentation and information processing. Most readers will know that we had hoped to achieve this at Tell Jalul, starting in 1982, but political considerations in the Madaba Region prevented us from carrying out our goals. While postponing that phase of the project we felt we could achieve most of our immediate goals by focusing our work at this alternate Madaba Plains site with a similar occupation history to Jalul.

What is the ancient identification for Tell el-Umeiri? This is not yet known

though Robert Ibach has suggested it to be Amorite Heshbon (cf. Numbers 21:21-30) while Donald Redford considers it to be Biblical Abel-keramim (cf. Judges 11:33).



myself have wondered if it might be one of the towns mentioned in Jeremiah 48:21-25.

Where exactly is this site? Umeiri is 10km south of Amman's Seventh Circle by the new airport freeway and stands at the narrow northern end of the Wadi el-Musaba'at. The name actually applies to three tells roughly 250m apart, now divided not only by the wadi but also the freeway. Because of the new road, the entire region is now open to activity destructive of ancient remains. In a sense our entire project can be seen as a salvage effort. The northeastern tell is the latest in terms of its occupation history: Islamic Period. The southeastern tell is smaller and earlier in terms of occupation: Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine Periods. The western tell is largest, approximately 16 acres in size and higher - ca. 900m in elevation, some 60m above the wadi. At its base is the only major natural water source in the district between Amman and Madaba. The slopes of the tell incorporate several terraces but rise steeply on all sides except the west where the hill joins a ridge. Considerable evidence of architecture is to be seen on the site, especially on the summit. The summit, though irregular, is fairly flat. It drops off abruptly on all sides along a scarp which has proved to be the line of a defensive wall. There are huge quantities of sherds to be found on the surface of the site. These range in date from Chalcolithic through Early, Middle, and Late Bronze to Iron I and II, and a very few Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine.

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

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What was the archaeological team looking for? The problem which lies at the heart of our continuing investigation is the tension which appears to have existed in this region since antiquity between the processes of sedentarization on the one hand and bedouinization on the other. Whereas sedentarization has to do with the gradual establishment of villages and towns whose inhabitants engage in varying degrees in the production primarily of crops, bedouinization has to do with the gradual reestablishment of nomadic or bedouin food-getting strategies on previously cultivated lands. We are interested in the following questions. What is the rate at which these processes have occurred within the project area? What are the biophysical and wider socio-political factors which affect this tension and the rate at which both processes occur? What were the specific structural arrangements which made possible the persistence, during certain periods, of a particular balance between these two processes? What were the specific structural arrangements that made possible or enhanced destabilization of this tension? What are the identities of the various actors who have played a part in the historical drama represented by these processes? Are any of them mentioned in the Bible or other ancient sources?

To answer these and related problems, we initiated both stratigraphic and surface survey inquiries centered at Tell el-Umeiri but including its surrounding environs. While the stratigraphic excavations during the 1984 season were confined to Tell el-Umeiri (west) under the general supervision of Chief Archaeologist Larry Herr, the surface survey extended into the surrounding region under the general supervision of Chief Anthropologist Oystein LaBianca. This summer it involved an intensive survey of the catchment area within a 5km radius of the site. In a methodological innovation, both the excavation on the tell and the field survey utilized randomly-chosen squares as a control on their judgment samples. The results for everything that was discovered were recorded on standardized forms that allowed all data to be computerized. A preliminary summary of these results follows.



#### The Western Citadel: Field A

(This account draws on the report of Field Supervisor John Lawlor who was assisted by the following Square Supervisors and their associates: 7K40 - Anabel Lazaro, Caryn Broitman; 7K41 - John Hackwell, Anne Crawford; 7K50 - James Fisher, Elsie Peterson; 7K51 - Mary Steratore, Glenn Montgomery.)

Field A was opened at the western end of the flat summit in the expectation that a gate or entrance might be discovered. Instead all four squares soon came down on what are apparently the interior walls and rooms of a large structure being called the Western Citadel - perhaps comparable in function and certainly in date to Albright's "Western Tower" at Tell Beit Mirsim (something suggested by Randy Younker). It appears to date from Late Iron II (ca. 7th century B.C.) after which the area was abandoned.

Two major phases of construction were noted, each followed by an ephemeral phase. Both phases utilized basically the same plan, had roughly similarly-sized rooms (e.g. 6.4 x 1.7m, 5.5 x 4.0m, 4.0 x 2.5m), and employed beaten earth surfaces. On the floors of the earlier Phase 2 building were found many smashed but restorable whole pots in addition to stone ballista, pounders, whetstones, pendants, figurines, fibulae, spindle whorls, a cosmetic palette and spatula, etc. The walls of the later Phase 1 building, a reorientation of Phase 2, were not as well built nor were the floors as well done.

The massive size of the building's plan and the width of the individual walls (up to 1.65m) indicate more than a domestic function for the structure. Whether that function was official, administrative, defense, or something else can be more certainly ascertained after future broader horizontal exposure.

#### The Western Defense: Field B

(This summary depends on the report of Field Supervisor Doug Clark who was assisted by the following Square Supervisors and their associates: 7J87 - Lloyd Willis, Vilmar Gonzalez; 7J88 - Kenneth Carlson, My Louc Erhard; 7J89 - Richard LaCom, Gillian Geraty; 7J98 - David Merling, Steven Hawkins; 7K90 - Helen Dates, Jean Gard.)

Tell el-Umeiri is joined by a saddle on the west to a ridge of hills running

north-south. This topographical feature makes the tell's western slope the one most vulnerable to enemy assault. Our assumption therefore was that this would be the logical place to look for the town's defenses. The five squares opened up on this slope did indeed uncover some five phases of the Iron 2 defenses and perhaps an earlier one from Iron 1.

Field B provides a section through the western slope not far from Field A, the Western Citadel. From top to bottom it uncovered a number of interesting features.

At the summit were the remains of a massive mudbrick wall (platform? tower? tumble?) which appears to be Iron 1 (ca. 10th century B.C.) at the latest, though it was reused in Iron 2, and which covers nearly the entire square. The bricks were either purposely laid at angles during construction or their current position is the result of forceful destruction. From some five pits of varying sizes and shapes built on or into this mudbrick construction it is apparent that the latter is at least 1.4m deep though probably much deeper.

At the crest of the hill lay two parallel stone walls, possibly a casemate defense, the outer wall being 2.0m wide. Above this construction a storeroom destroyed in Early Iron 2 was found. The room's contents included three large Iron 2 collar-rimmed storejars in situ (set into the earthen surface supported by cobbles), a perfectly-preserved juglet whose floated contents were a few barley and flax seeds (their larger than expected size indicating possibly irrigation agriculture), and several stone ballista in the ashy remains of the destroyed room. Outside this perimeter wall on the downhill side an impressive terre pissee glacis was found surmounted by a white chipped-nari layer held in place by stone rows whose section was pyramidal. The slope above this latter construction was 32 degrees; below it was 40 degrees. The entire glacis was at least 2.0m thick and may cover an earlier rampart below.

#### The Northern Terrace: Field C

(The results in this field are credited to Field Supervisor James Battenfield who was assisted by the following Square Supervisors and their associates: 8L62 and 8L82 - Richard Davidson, Ross Miller; 8L63 and 8L64 - Robert Merrill, Bryce Cole; 8L72 - Claire Peachey, Hanan Azar, and Stephanie



Merling; 8L73 - Zdravko Stefanovic, Rene Stables.)

Striking features of the north slope of the tell include wall lines originating at both eastern and western ends of the summit but which gradually converge at the bottom of the north slope in the vicinity of the important spring already mentioned. In fact, the walled suburb may have been an attempt at some point to incorporate the spring within the walls or at least to protect it. Crossing this isosceles triangle-shaped area is a prominent bedrock shelf which contains in its eastern end, outside the wall, what looks like an Iron Age tomb. Field C was laid out in such a way as to section this bedrock shelf and whatever lay below it.

The southern squares of the field came down immediately on the noted bedrock shelf. The face contained anomalies but no tomb or cave entrances - possibly because this portion of the shelf was incorporated within the walls. The terrace in front of (to the north of) the shelf had evidently been used for quarrying. Most subsequent building remains had probably been robbed for the excavators found only bits and pieces of walls, few surfaces to go with them, and mostly evidence of erosion. Some theorized this may have been the path of a stairway from the spring to the summit. Just above bedrock quantities of Early Bronze 1 pottery was found, including a whole juglet. There were also numerous cupmarks in the bedrock.

In the latest square to be opened to the north, farthest down the slope, a substantial revetment wall or tower appeared, dating possibly to Iron 1, or even the Late Bronze Age. Only further work will enable us to make better sense out of what has been found in this field.

#### The Lower Southern Terrace: Field D

(Field Supervisor Larry Mitchel was responsible for the excavation and interpretation of the data summarized here, along with the following Square Supervisors and their associates: 7K76 - Marilyn Murray, Robert Collins; 7K77 - Steven Boozer, Howard Krug; 7K86 - Colin House, Jason Mitchel; 7K87 - Hans Curvers, Cheryl Jacob.)

The broad southern slope of the tell is made up of several terraces. Field D was opened up on the edge of the flattest,

broadest (20 to 30m wide), and lowest to be occupied. It proved to be a domestic housing area from the Early Bronze Age (third millennium B.C.).

Some five phases of occupation were identified. Very little of Phases 5 and 4, the earliest phases reached, was exposed. They appear to have walled rooms and may date to EB III and IV, respectively, though it is really premature to say.

Phase 3, possibly EB IV (ca. 2000 B.C.), was the most thoroughly preserved of the excavated remains. At least two houses were built into shallow pits some .50 to .75m deep with horizontal dimensions of approximately 4.0 x 4.0m. In both cases the door sills and steps leading down into the houses were preserved and showed wear patterns from ancient foot traffic. It must not be coincidental that both entrances are opposite the wadi overlook, at protective angles from the prevailing wind. Inside, the houses had beaten earth floors where the following features were found: mortars, a stone-outlined ash and refuse pit, a fine flint blade, and animal bones. In addition, each floor had a stone base for a central support pillar placed approximately 1.6 to 1.8m equidistant from the exterior walls. Originally these would each have supported a wooden beam which in turn would have supported roof rafters going out to the walls. Over the rafters reeds would have been placed, the impressions of many of them having been preserved in chunks of the fallen plaster.

Phase 2, possibly MB I (post 2000 B.C.), contained several walls but no really cohesive plan emerged. The bits and tatters of Phase 1 dated to the Late Roman and Byzantine Periods when the terrace was probably used for irrigation agriculture.

#### The Intensive Survey of the 'Umeiri Region

(Field Supervisor Robert Boling's preliminary report and site list are the basis for what follows. He was assisted in the field by the following associates: Jon Cole, survey engineer and hydrologist; Michael Alcorn, biological anthropologist and lithicist; Randy Younker, zooarchaeologist and botanist; Bruce Cole, photographer; Mohammad Mihyar and Hanan Azar, translators; and Allison McQuitty, ethnoarchaeologist.)

The work of the regional survey was focused on a series of randomly-chosen



200 x 200m squares within a 5km radius of Tell el-Umeiri, on site-seeking within the same territory, and on specialized studies by various staff members. As the team carried out their research they took special note of current patterns of land-use (especially water resources) as well as plant communities (especially in relation to their geographical-environmental contexts). They also carried out numerous interviews with villagers and farmers whom they met.

The season's goal was to survey a minimum of 30 randomly-selected squares; 38 were actually surveyed. Interestingly enough none were devoid of artifacts. Visits to several of them led the team members to other sites, many of which would probably have been found no other way. A site was defined as "a place where one can find clustered evidence of ancient handiwork." Some 55 sites were surveyed, mapped, and cataloged. For two reasons most of the site-seeking was done in the northern portion of the 5-km-radius intensive survey region: rapidly-expanding urban growth in this region aided by the new Amman-International Airport Freeway meant such archaeological evidence is fast being destroyed; furthermore, much of the southern half of the survey region had already been traversed by Robert Ibach's Hesban survey team in 1976.

Pottery was naturally the most abundant artifact found. Absent or scarce were sherds from the following periods: Chalcolithic, Middle Bronze 1, Persian, Hellenistic, Nabatean, Abbasid, Fatimid, and Ottoman. Few sherds were found from Middle Bronze 2, Late Bronze, and Modern. The Ayyubid/Mamluk Period was securely represented but not abundantly so. Truly numerous were sherds from Early Bronze, Iron 1 and 2, Early and Late Roman, Byzantine, and Umayyad. It is interesting to note that where data is most abundant the percentages of correlations between the Ibach and Boling surveys are closely comparable. This result engenders confidence in the usefulness of both surveys including the methodologically innovative random sampling employed in 1984. Where the figures are very different, i.e. the Hellenistic Period, there may be genuine historical/territorial factors to account for them.

Among the many interesting sites

discovered, some warrant special mention. Possibly the oldest, largest, and richest Palaeolithic site (no. 53) yet discovered in Jordan was recognized first by Alcorn during the sherding of an adjoining random square. The first inhabitants may have been drawn to the site by a seasonal lake to the southeast. Today virtually the entire 300 x 300m site is under cultivation. Hundreds of lithic artifacts were collected in just a few hours. According to prehistorians Gary Rollefson and Al Simmons these include Acheulean handaxes (Lower Palaeolithic), predominantly Lavallois-Mousterian tools (Middle Palaeolithic), and some Neolithic/Chalcolithic specimens; no good Upper Palaeolithic tools were recognized.

Opposite Tell el-Umeiri, on the summit of the wooded hill just to the south, a 12 x 12m Early Bronze watchtower (no. 2) was found. It would have been needed by the inhabitants of the slightly lower tell to keep track of what was going on in the Madaba Plains.

Nearly half of the sites identified are characterized by small rectangular (but sometimes round) "towers," with or without perimeter walls and associated structures (cisterns, wine presses, heaps of stones from field cleaning, etc.) and mostly dating to the Iron Age (1200-500 B.C.). In most cases these structures are too small (from 4.0 x 4.0m to 18 x 18m) or too poorly located to serve a military function. On the edge of what used to be forested ridges, they command broad views of farm fields today and probably did so in antiquity as well. They illustrate exceedingly well what the husbandman did in the Song of the Vineyard in Isaiah 5:1-7.

From the Roman Period a hitherto undiscovered station on Trajan's via nova (no. 18) was identified by remaining portions of the ancient road and three milestones (uninscribed) - two of them in secondary use. These are thought to establish the route of the via nova south of Amman running to the east near Yadoude rather than to the west toward el-Al.

An impressive columbarium (no. 39), artificially carved out of the hillside, was found, dating possibly to the Byzantine Period. More than 15m on a side, it was composed of two chambers full of hundreds of shallow niches for cinerary urns.

From the "Classical" Period, numerous



cemeteries were discovered including hundreds of opened tombs. Just to the north of the tell a nearly completed rolling stone was identified in a Roman/Byzantine cemetery (no. 3). In another cemetery (no. 26) was a basalt stele carved in low relief; it appears to depict a Stylite monk standing before his "pillar."

#### Pottery, Lithics, Objects

(Larry Herr was responsible for pottery processing assisted by Registrars Mary Ellen Lawlor and Hester Thomsen and the help of the Lawlor girls: Karis, Nancy, and Rene; many other volunteers were involved in cutting, drawing, describing, reconstructing, etc. Michael Alcorn processed the lithics, and Objects Registrars Elizabeth Platt and Slegfried Horn, assisted by Lotta Gaster, identified and cataloged all the small finds which were drawn by Artist Peter Erhard.)

The range of pottery discovered on the tell has already been mentioned. Because of Herr's move to Canada from the Philippines, its analysis is not yet complete. Nor has the analysis of the lithics really begun though it soon will.

Of some 500 objects found in addition to numerous whole ceramic pots, a fourth may be considered household objects: millstones, grinders, mortars, pestles, whetstones, knives, spoons, flint tools, stoppers, rope stone weights, stone bowls, etc. Half are divided somewhat equally among industrial objects (spindle whorls, spindles, loom weights, weaving spatulas, burnishers, chains, etc.), weapons (slingstones, maceheads, and arrowheads), and unidentified objects. There are significant number of jewelry and cosmetic items (beads, pendants, bangles, earrings, cosmetic palettes, mirror, etc.) and cultic objects (mostly figurines). The remainder may be classified as clothing (buttons, fibulae, pins), toys (cart wheels), agricultural implements (stone hoe), and miscellaneous (shells, glass, coins, ostraca, scarabs, seals, and seal impressions). Together these objects beautifully illustrate life in Old Testament times (primarily the Bronze and Iron Ages).

The single object that caused the greatest stir was found by Lloyd Willis in the sift from soil near the mound's surface in a random square. He passed it to his supervisor, Doug Clark, who handed it to his colleague, Larry Mitchel, who happened

by. Mitchel recognized it as inscribed. Within a couple of days Larry Herr had a definitive reading:  $\text{Imlkm-}^{\text{wr}} \text{ } ^{\text{c}}\text{bd b}^{\text{c}}\text{l-yš}^{\text{c}}$  ("belonging to Milkem-<sup>wr</sup>, prime minister literally servant of Ba<sup>c</sup>al-yasha<sup>c</sup>"). The Ammonite script and design in the center (a winged scarab flanked by two standards surmounted by crescent moons) are typical of the 7th/6th century B.C. The identification of this Ammonite king with that of Baalis mentioned in Jeremiah 40:14 is virtually certain making our find the first extra-biblical confirmation of this historical personage. The variation in the spelling of the name is interesting and will be the subject of Herr's forthcoming article on the find.

#### Scientific and Logistic Support

From the foregoing it is obvious that other key personnel, in addition to those already mentioned, were involved in the endeavor, sometimes on the tell or in the region, but more often in the lab or headquarters camp. Relations with some 50 local workmen and numerous governmental authorities were eased with the assistance of Department of Antiquities Representatives Hefzi Haddad and Hanan Azar.

The photography team was headed by Don May with the assistance all summer of Larry Coyle and Jonathan Hearon. Robert Artman developed a video program in addition to his time-consuming role as handyman/engineer.

Glenn Johnson supervised the preparation of a topographical map, the laying out of the grid, and the recording of architectural finds, with the assistance of Merling Alomia, Raschel Barton, and Robert Loos.

Though LaBianca set up the ecology lab for the processing of animal bones (by Randy Younker and Larry Rich), plant remains (by Randy Younker), seeds (Yvonne Hackwell), etc., it was Patsy Tyner who ran it. Claire Peachey assisted in the area of geology. James Brower built and operated the computer system used at camp where he entered the field data and provided supervisors with integrated locus printouts.

David Merling headed a camp staff that provided everyone else with crucial service. Rachael Hallock presided over the kitchen with the help of Myrtle Miller, Elvira Ferreira, and the younger Hackwells: Natalie, Bronwyn, and Andrew, not to mention many volunteers. Nursing service



was provided throughout by Jean Gard and physicians who took turns were Erwin Syphers and Gary Frykman. The latter's family (Annette Frykman and sons Gregory, Philip, and Eric) all volunteered on the tell as did certain residents of Amman from time to time. Lloyd Willis acted as chaplain and JoAnn Davidson did secretarial work.

#### Special Thanks

Despite the hard work of each staff member coordinated so well by Larry Herr and Oystein LaBianca especially, the expedition would not have materialized had it not been for the financial assistance of Andrews University and the California Society for Archaeological Research (Ed. Distler, president; John Cassell, secretary; Bernard Brandsfater, Treasurer; and Charles Anderson, Harold Bailey, Barry Crabtree, trustees) along with numerous private donors. Among the latter the substantial gifts of Vern and Barbara Jean Carner, Gary Stanhiser, Thomas and Hazel Geraty, Ron Geraty, and Gary Frykman must be singled out. Worthington Foods through the good offices of its President, Allan Buller, provided the staff with complimentary textured protein products for the season.

The officers and staff of the American Schools of Oriental Research and its local affiliate, the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman provided invaluable assistance; the latter's director, David McCreery, and administrator, Laura Hess, must be particularly mentioned.

Others within the country of Jordan without whom the excavation would not have come off were Prince Raad ibn Zeid, Director-General of Antiquities Adnan Hadidi, and Businessman/Scholar Raouf Abujaber. As landowner of Umeiri, the latter went out of his way in time, effort, and financial assistance to assure our success.

#### Conclusion

For a first season of work at a brand new site we have every right to be pleased and proud for what cooperative teamwork has accomplished. Have we found what we set out to look for, in terms outlined in the introduction? We have certainly made a good start. By adopting an analytical perspective which focused attention on a central concern of life in our region, namely, people's quest for food, we have observed changes and patterning in settlement, landuse, ecological relationships,

architecture, artifacts, waterworks, etc. - all interrelated and influenced by shifts in food procurement strategies. We have begun to trace the waxing and waning of settlements and their relationship to this key ingredient of life. Even who the actors on this stage were is beginning to come clearer. Current plans call for continuing fieldwork in 1986.



#### NEW ASSISTANT CURATOR AT THE HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

David Merling, a doctoral student in archaeology and assistant editor of the *NEWSLETTER* is the new assistant curator of the Horn Archaeological Museum. David has visited the Kelsey Museum at the University of Michigan and the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago to learn more about the details of caring for the daily operation of an archaeological museum. Already he has implemented a policy for the handling of objects which is very timely as study continues on objects brought back from the first season of the Madaba Plains Project in Jordan.

J. Bjornar Storfjell, the former assistant curator has been named Seminary Librarian at Andrews University. He has been in that position since August 1984. Bjornar continues with his teaching responsibilities in the Seminary and as editor of the *NEWSLETTER*.



#### PLATT AND STORFJELL WILL CONDUCT WORKSHOPS ON ARCHAEOLOGY

The National Executive Committee of United Presbyterian Women has invited Dr.



Elizabeth E. Platt to lead in the triennial meetings held at Purdue University in July, 1985. Dr. Platt will teach three workshops on archaeology and the Bible as an educational feature of the national meetings. Attendance is being expanded to accomodate 6,000 delegates—one thousand more than in the years before the uniting of the two Presbyterian bodies. The week of July 17 to 22 falls within Elizabeth's scheduled vacation when she will be doing research at the Horn Archaeological Museum in Michigan, a few hours' drive from Purdue. She will be able to make use of materials and exhibits from the two excavations housed at the museum, both of which she has participated in. Elizabeth has long been active in the United Presbyterian Women's organization and their mission work. She was on the Bible study panel for the plenary sessions in 1979 and this time attends as Minister of Education from the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, New Jersey.

Dr. J. Bjornar Storfjell will conduct a three-day seminar on archaeology and the Bible at Tyrifjord Videregaende Skole just outside of Oslo, Norway from December 28 to December 30, 1984. The Seventh-day Adventist church in east Norway frequently sponsors seminars for clergy and other professionals during the Christmas holidays. The topic this year will be "Archaeology and the Bible." Bjornar is a native of Norway and an alumnus of Tyrifjord.

## MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL—TIME AGAIN

With the arrival of the month of December the Horn Archaeological Museum begins its annual membership program. As in the past we will give our sponsors an opportunity to contribute financially to the operation of our programs.

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