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Tall Jalul 2012

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The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



Tall Jalul 2012

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

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From May 17- June 8, 2012 Andrews University continued excavations at Tall Jalul. Excavations this summer focused on the reservoir in Field W, on the tell, and were directed by Randall Younker, Paul Z. Gregor and Paul Ray of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University. Hanadi Taher served as representative for the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.

Field W was opened in the 2010 season in order to explore the nature and function of the water channel, discovered in Field G during the 2007 and 2009 seasons, and its relation to the water reservoir. Five squares (W7-11) were opened this season. Work also continued in Square W2, opened in 2010, in order to obtain datable material to establish the possible origin of the reservoir wall discovered during the 2011 season.

In Square W11, located north of Square W6, a portion of the bottom of the 7th century BC water channel was revealed. Since the floor of the channel is close to the present-day surface, little has survived beyond a few medium-sized flagstones which were discovered along with some traces of plaster. This season's excavation has extended the exposure of the channel up to a distance of nearly 50 meters. It still seems that this channel was constructed to drain water from the reservoir to natural pools located downslope, outside the tell. However, the exact relationship between the channel and the reservoir is still unclear. Underneath the channel three surfaces, or floors, from 8th and 9th centuries BC were discovered. These surfaces correspond to those found

(cont'd on p. 2)



Field W, Square 2 at Jalul.

in Square W2 during the 2011 season. A well-preserved section of the eastern wall of the water reservoir was also found in this square. While the relationship of the second floor and reservoir wall is not yet clear, the lowest floor, dating to the 9th century BC, seals against the wall of the reservoir, indicating that the reservoir is earlier than the 9th century BC. Ceramics excavated from under this floor possibly date to the 10th century BC, but more pottery is needed before this date can be stated with certainty. Thus, further excavation is planned for this area in the future.

While Squares W8, W9 and W10 revealed only post-7th century BC fill, without any architecture, Square W7 revealed a large section of the southern wall of the reservoir. This wall was constructed in the same fashion as the eastern wall of the reservoir, i.e., a stone wall, covered with a thick layer of plaster on the interior. Another stone wall, which may have served as a partition of the reservoir, was also revealed in the same square. It is constructed in such a way that it is narrow at the top, but widens out towards its base. At the present time it is impossible to date this wall as its foundation has not yet been reached.

As mentioned above, excavation continued in Square W2 this season. Material under the 9th century BC floor revealed Early Iron Age II, possibly 10th century BC pottery. In addition, a short section of another wall was discovered. Its construction was dated by the pottery found at its foundation, and below, to the Early Bronze Age III/IV. The most common forms were “envelope” ledge handles, and holemouth jars. Some of the jars were burned on the surface, suggesting that they had been used as cooking pots. This wall was cut by the reservoir wall, indicating minimally that the construction date of the reservoir is sometime after the end of the Early Bronze Age. Hence, the current range for the construction of the reservoir runs between the Middle Bronze and Iron Age I/II. (Randall Younker, Paul Z. Gregor and Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Field W, Square 7, at Jalul.

Bridge Building

On April 21, 2011 the Horn Archaeological Museum presented a program entitled “Bridge-building: Personal Encounters in the Middle East Through Art and Ethnography” with presentations by Brian Manley, former Professor of Art at Andrews University and Kristen Witzel, of the Communications Department at Andrews University.

Following a short reception, Brian Manley began the program with a presentation on the “The Art of Peacemaking,” which focused on Orientalism and Orientalist painters. This refers to a period of time when artists in Europe got out of their studios and explored the Orient, painting pictures that were extremely well executed. The heyday of Orientalist painting was from the 1860s to the early 1900s, and included artists such as Edward Lord Weeks, who painted epic portrayals of animals, multiple figures, and architecture from direct observation of the Arab world, in North Africa, India and Persia; Jean-Léon Gérôme, known for fusing his paintings with bold amounts of color in a very dramatic way; and Léon Belly, who is famous for his painting entitled “Pilgrims on the Way to Mecca,” of

which there is a reproduction in the lobby of the Institute of Archaeology.

The Orientalist painters were actually responding to phenomenon that somewhat repeats itself today: the fear of Muslims. The famed historian Bernard Lewis stated: “it was fear more than any other single factor which led to the beginnings of Arabic scholarship in Europe.” This fear drove scholars to start looking at Islam and the regions inhabited by Muslims. In so doing, these scholars took artists along for documentation purposes and much of the work of these artists is documentary in nature. It should not be understood as stereotypical or exaggerated. Many Orientalist painters lived in a region for 2-5 years as they traveled through the Middle East.

Orientalism needs to be redefined, as fear is again rising towards the inhabitants of the Middle East, requiring the need to break down stereotypes.

Kristen Witzel followed with a presentation entitled “Hospitality and Resilience.” She noted that in the Middle East, hospitality has been described as a part of warfare. In order to support the small tribes it was important to have a leader with influence, and hospitality was the way that tribal leaders gained their influence. Tribal leaders didn’t have