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Jordan Conference in Amman

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The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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NEWSLETTER

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Jordan Conference in Amman

The Thirteenth International Conference of the History and Archaeology of Jordan (ICHAJ), under the patronage of HRH Prince El Hassan Bin Talal, was held in Amman, Jordan from May 21-26, 2016. The venue for the conference was at the Princess Sumaya University of Technology, and was sponsored by the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (DAJ), Sustainable Cultural Heritage through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP), The Jordan Museum, Madaba Institute for Mosaic Art and Restoration (MIMAR), the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and Princess Sumaya University of Technology (PSUT).

The theme for the conference was Ethics in Archaeology. About 200 researchers from various parts of the world participated in the conference, focusing on excavation, restoration, survey and archaeological technology, as well as inscriptional analysis and other aspects of recent discoveries in Jordan. The keynote speakers were HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan, Dr. Mounir Bushnaki, and Dr. Gary Rollefson.

Papers presented by current and former personnel of the Madaba Plains Project and its predecessor, the Andrews University Heshbon Expedition, include: Understanding the Contours of Rural Life in the Middle and Late Islamic Period (Bethany Walker); Aqaba Castle, Origin, Development and Evolution of Khans in Jordan: An Archaeological Approach (Reem Al-Shqour); Results of the Excavation Project at the Islamic Village of Jalul (Basem Al Mahamid); Linking Iron I Sites on the Madaba Plains (P. M. Michèle Daviau with Stanley Klassen); Interpretation of Archaeological Sites through Their Name (Hanadi Al-Taher); Integrating Archaeological Research and Site Management Responsibilities at Busayra (Stephanie Brown and Benjamin Porter);

(cont'd on p. 2)



Paul Ray, Paul Z. Gregor, Constance Gane and Randall Younker at the ICHAJ Conference.

Conservation and Management—Three Historic Sites Completely Destroyed in as-Salt (Raouf Abujaber); Nabataean and Late Roman Domestic Life on Petra’s North Ridge (S. Thomas Paker); Central Jordan Epigraphic Survey (David Graf); Towards a Conservation and Site Managements Strategy at Umm El-Jimal (Bert de Vries with Muaffaq Hazza); A Series of Iron Age Domestic Buildings in Field C at Tall Jalul (Paul Ray); Late Neolithic Variability in Lithic Technology and Typology from Two Areas of the Black Desert of Jordan (Gary Rollefson); Investigations of Prehistoric Exploitation in Jordan’s Black Desert (Gary Rollefson with Yorke Rowan, Alexander Wasse, A. C. Hill and Morag Kersel); Archaeology Engaging the Anthropocene (Øystein LaBianca); From Workers to Partners: How Petra’s Host Communities Are Now Taking the Lead in the TWLCRM Initiative (Maria Elena Ronza and Glenn Corbett); Who Owns this Part of the Past? Protecting Tall al-‘Umayri’s Cultural Heritage (Douglas Clark with Kent Bramlett); Tall Jalul Excavation Results: Phase I (Randall Younker and Constance Gane); The Shrine of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist and the Origins of Madaba (Elisabeth Lesnes); Water System

at Tall Jalul (Paul Gregor); and ‘Ataruz and the Ancient Road System (Chang-Ho Ji).

Project members who chaired sessions include: Ghazi Bisheh, Bethany Walker, Douglas Clark, Gary Rollefson, Randall Younker, and Øystein LaBianca. A day trip, with tours to the sites of Amman, Jerash and Madaba was also included. As usual, the conference papers will be published in the next conference volume: *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan, Volume 13*. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Jalul 2016

The 2016 Season of excavations at Tall Jalul were conducted from May 1- June 2 by faculty and students from Andrews University. The excavations were directed by Paul Z. Gregor, along with co-directors Constance Gane, and Paul Ray. Issa Siriani and Amal Khaled Rwahneh served as representatives for the Department of Antiquities of Jordan. Excavations, this season, took place in two fields (B and W).

Field B, on the eastern edge of the tell, was originally begun in 1992, at which time eight squares were opened. Two superimposed flagstone pavements were found, both dating to Iron Age II. The lower of the two pavements was found primarily in Squares B4 and B6, and initially dated to the early 9th century BC. The upper pavement was uncovered in Squares B2-B5, and B7, and dated to the 9th/8th centuries BC. Additional squares further to the southwest, opened in 1999, revealed that the upper pavement had some additional re-pavings, the latest dating to Late Iron Age II.

The purpose of the 2016 season was to clarify the stratigraphy between the upper and lower roads in order to provide a firmer date for the construction of these pavements. This season, two squares (B2 and B6) were re-opened, and supervised by Robert Bates. A 3 x 3 m probe was opened in Square B2, the upper road removed, and the earth excavated until a lower road was found. Then a 1.5 x 1.5 m section of this lower road was removed, and a smaller probe excavated another ca. 70 cm below. In Square B6, a 2 x 4 m probe was also opened. Here the original lower road was removed, and the earth excavated to a depth of 1.7 m.

In Square B2, excavation revealed that the revetment wall, found earlier in the 1990s, in Squares B4, B6, and B8, continued below the upper pavement. A new lower pavement, as well as a remnant of a possible second one, was found beneath the remains of the upper pavement. The probe in Square B6, underneath the original lower pavement, yielded considerable amounts of pottery, but no evidence for an additional pavement or pavements.

On the basis of work in Field B this season it would appear that there are at least three phases of road on the northern end of Field B. The earliest flagstone pavement was built in Early Iron Age II. Two flat-lying stones at different ends of the probe in Square B2 may represent an additional, slightly later rebuild of this lower road. Sometime later, the revetment wall was built against the east side of the



Paul Z. Gregor Presents Paper at the ICHAJ Conference.