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The Institute of Archaeology & the Horn
Archaeological Museum Newsletter

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Archaeological Museum

Fall 2001

Institute of Archaeology & Horn Archaeological Museum Newsletter Volume 22.4

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Robert D. Bates

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

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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 49104-0990, Telephone 616-471-3273, Fax 616-471-3619, e-mail hornmuseum@andrews.edu.

Volume 22.4
Fall 2001
ISSN 1095-2837

Triennial Conference

The Eighth International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan was held in Sydney, Australia from July 9-13, 2001. The conference marks the eighth time scholars from around the world have convened for presentations on the history and archaeology of Jordan which are later published in *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan*. HRH Prince Hassan began the triennial conferences at Oxford 24 years ago and continues as the series' patron. The initial plan was for Amman to host every other conference, but various locations in Europe and now Australia have been involved more often. The basic focus of the conference varies each time. For this conference, most papers centered primarily "Archaeological and Historical Perspectives on Society, Culture and Identity." In addition, there is always a slot provided for excavation updates since the previous conference.

The grand opening, which features speeches of welcome by important people, was hosted by HRH Princess Sumaya, who also gave the opening address. The University of Sydney was well represented as was the Department of Antiquities. Princess Sumaya spoke of her father's wish to be in attendance, a wish unfulfilled because of the pressing responsibilities of state in Jordan. She spoke proudly and gratefully of the cooperative efforts between Jordan and the academic community of scholars who go there to study its culture and history and thanked archaeologists profusely, even mentioning the book that Madaba Plains Project dedicated to her father (MPP 4), and expressing her gratitude for that gift. During the week of the conference she also spoke at the opening of a major archaeological exhibit at the University of Sydney's Nicholson Museum (From Pella to Petra), a book launching (Australians Uncovering Ancient Jordan: Fifty Years of Middle Eastern Discovery), and attended some of the sessions.

The remainder of the conference, involved mostly parallel sessions (two and three papers at a

(continued p. 2)



Sydney Opera House, Sydney, Australia

(Conference cont.)

time). The Madaba Plains Project-‘Umayri paper, “Excavation, Restoration and Presentation of Tall al-‘Umayri (Madaba Plains Project 1998-2000),” covered highlights from excavations over the past two seasons: the EB dolmen in Field K, the MB tower(?), the LB building, the early Iron I remains in Fields A and B, the late Iron I cultic remains from Field H, the limited late Iron II artifacts and architecture, and the Hellenistic farmstead in Field L. Dr. Fawwaz al-Kraysheh, Director-General of the Department of Antiquities and Dr. Ghazi Bisheh, former Director-General of the Department, both gave papers. Others from the Department made presentations as well.

Other participants from Jordan included Dr. Raouf Abujaber, owner of part of Tall al-Umayri and Rami Khouri. As a historian, Dr. Abujaber gave a paper on agricultural life in Jordan during the 19th century. There were a number of former MPP members in the crowd including Tim Harrison, Chang-ho Ji, Harold Mare, Ghattas Sayej, and Bert DeVries. In all, there were 117 conference participants and 91 presenters representing the countries of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Jordan, Korea, Netherlands, Palestine, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the USA. At the end of the conference, Dr. Kraysheh officially welcomed participants to Amman in 2004 for the next one. Washington, D.C. is the tentative location for the 2007 conference.

As the host of the conference, the University of Sydney and did a marvelous job arranging venues both on and off campus. Participants stayed dormitory style at Wesley College. The sessions were held in the Education Building, five-minutes walk away, and in the Old Main Quadrangle, a grand place with the Great Hall for the opening ceremonies. Participants were bused off for several events, including a museum reception, a cruise around Sydney Harbour, and a visit to the Sydney Zoo. (Douglass R. Clark)



Hoffmeier at Andrews

James Hoffmeier, Prof. of OT and Near Eastern History and Archaeology from Trinity International University, spoke for the Horn Archaeological Lectureship on Oct. 15, 2001. Hoffmeier is the director of the North Sinai Archaeological Project and the Tell el-Borg excavations. His lecture was entitled: The Excavations at Tell el-Borg, Sinai: New Light on the Route of the Exodus.

According to the biblical exodus (Ex 13:20-14:2), the Israelites traveled from Pi-Rameses (Tel al-Dab’a) to Succoth (Tell el-Maskhuta) on the east end of the Wadi Tumilat until they reached Etham. Then, they turned and camped by the sea before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea opposite Baal Zephon.

Three names on the route of the exodus are unidentified (Migdol, Pi Hahiroth and Baal-Zephon). Hoffmeier believes that Tell el-Borg may be one of them.

In the Late Bronze Age (LB), Egypt was protected by a series of forts along the Mediterranean coast. The first three forts were called Tjaru, the Mansion of the Lion and Midol, respectively. Gardiner associated Tjaru with Tell el-Abu Sefeh, the Mansion of the Lion with Tel Ahmar and Migdol with Tell el-Heir but recent excavations date these sites from the Ptolemaic period or later.

Dr. Hoffmeier has confirmed that Migdol was one first three forts that protected Egypt’s northern border near the east end of the Delta during the New Kingdom. Egyptian documents also mention Migdol as the last Egyptian fort that can be reached by water.

In order to locate Migdol, Hoffmeier and coastal Geologist Daniel Stanley used declassified satellite photos of the Delta. They were able to determine the coastal outline of the LB Delta region. They also discovered that a branch of the Nile passed between the Tell el-Borg fort and the supporting town.

Hebua 1 and Hebua 2 were also located within the LB Delta. Dr. Hoffmeier



Dr. James Hoffmeier

believes that either Hebua 1 and Hebua 2 are Tjaru, Tell el-Borg is the Mansion of the Lion and Migdol is uncertain or that Hebua 1 is Tjaru, Hebua 2 is the Mansion of the Lion and el-Borg is Migdol.

Excavations at Tell el-Borg have revealed many artifacts from the Armarna and Ramside periods. A deep moat with an enigmatic stepped structure was lined with fired bricks. Most bricks from the Armarna period were unfired. This led many Egyptian archaeologists to conclude that brick firing technology was not available at that time. Hoffmeier believes that these fired bricks were necessary to prevent moisture from destroying the moat. Unfired bricks used for domestic architecture would not be able to withstand the Mediterranean climate without crumbling. In addition, several stamped jar handles with the cartouches of Smenkhare and Tutankhamun and inscriptions from Tuthmosis III were found.

A stone block was found of a deity with the name “strong bull” behind it. Though many Egyptian king names included the words “strong bull,” K. A. Kitchen has linked the iconography with similar examples at Tell el-Maskhuta and the period of Rameses II. Another inscription on a name plate bears the name of “Hi,” the weapons bearer and a military officer in the Great Division of Amun. This confirms a possible Ramside military presence at Tell el-Borg and suggests that this fort was one of several that protected the narrow land route from Canaan to Egypt. (Robert D. Bates)

NEH-FUNDED SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS

Archaeology in Jordan: Tall al-'Umayri Teachers' Institute (TUTI)
Teachers (especially grades 6 - 12) are invited to apply for a stipend
(\$3,700.00) to participate in the 6 week institute, June 19 - July 31, 2002.

Gloria London and Judith Cochran, Co-directors.

Application dateline March 1, 2002.

Contact: galondon@earthlink.net

Or obtain more information via my web site:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~galondon>

or the NEH web site which lists other institutes and seminars as well:

<http://www.neh.gov/projects/si-school.html> school teachers
<http://www.neh.gov/projects/si-university.html> college/university teachers

Questions? Please contact G. London for the Archaeology in Jordan Institute.

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MADABA PLAINS PROJECT TALL AL -'UMAYRI, JORDAN June 19 - July 31, 2002

Enjoy the fun and adventure of participating
on an archaeological dig

Travel on weekends to major sites in Jordan

To apply for the upcoming field season at Tall al-'Umayri
visit the Madaba Plains Project web site at:

<http://www.wvc.edu/mpp>

apply online, download forms requiring your signature
learn more about the Madaba Plains Project



or send to:

Warren C. Trenchard
Madaba Plains Project
La Sierra University
4700 Pierce Street
Riverside, CA 92515

(909) 785-2119 / Fax: (909) 785-2199
email: wtrencha@lasierra.edu



RANDOM SURVEY

Iceman Mystery Solved

Dramatic new evidence has emerged concerning the death of "Otzi", the Bronze Age hunter whose frozen body was found in the Alps in 1991. The 5,300-year old corpse caused a sensation, and launched a decade of debate as to precisely how he met his death. Recently, Italian scientists using X-rays to produce a multi-dimensional image of the body, found a flint arrowhead embedded beneath the Iceman's left shoulder. This arrow shattered Otzi's scapula and ripped through nerves and major blood vessels, causing massive internal bleeding and his death.

Nubian Temple Discovered

Thirty international expeditions from nine countries are attempting to excavate ancient Nubian temples, cities and burial grounds before they are destroyed by encroaching villages, agriculture or neglect. In one remote Sudanese town, a 2000 year old city built around a huge temple was discovered. Archaeologists believe that this temple was dedicated to the ram-headed Egyptian god Amun and dates to 100 A.D.

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Return to Nimrud

Excavations at Nimrud have resumed after an absence of ten years. At the Ishtar Temple, Muzahim Mahmoud Husein uncovered two winged lions flanking the eastern gate. Between them was a stone slab inscription recounting Assurnasipal II's construction of Nimrud. Other finds include cylinder seals, painted palace ware, decorated glazed bricks, a prism and a bronze head of Sargon. Excavations at Nimrud will continue in 2002.

Ancient Egyptian Cities Swallowed by the Sea

Herakleion and Eastern Canopus, two Egyptian cities on the Mediterranean Sea, disappeared suddenly more than 1,200 years ago, swallowed by the sea. Their fate remained uncertain until they were recently found approx. 20 feet (6 m) below the waters of Abu Qir Bay. The ruins of these Egyptian cities rest between 1-3 mile (1.6-5.4 km) from the shore. Researchers have concluded that the two cities collapsed when a major flood caused the land they were built on to suddenly become liquefied mud. The weight of the stone buildings and the heavy loads of sedimentation caused the cities to sink into the Mediterranean Sea.

Tall Jawa Final Report

P. M. M. Daviau has published a volume of the final report on Tall Jawa entitled: Excavations at Tall Jawa, Jordan Volume 2: The Iron Age Artefacts. Culture and History of the Ancient Near East, 11/2, eds. B. Halpern et al., Leiden: E. J. Brill.

N E W S L E T T E R



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