Summer 2003

Institute of Archaeology & Horn Archaeological Museum Newsletter Volume 24.3

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Robert D. Bates

Paul J. Ray Jr.

NEWSLETTER

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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NEWSLETTER

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Institute/Museum to Relocate

The Horn Archaeological Museum on the campus of Andrews University is a treasure trove of ancient Middle Eastern artifacts. Figurines, such as the god Baal, and large collections of ceramics, cuneiform tablets and coins are just a sampling of the thousands of interesting artifacts in the museum set in their archaeohistorical context with murals painted by artist Nathan Greene.

In November of this year, the Institute of Archaeology/Horn Archaeological Museum will be moving from its current location on the campus of Andrews University to a building on Old U.S. 31 which was the former home of a local bank. The building, which is owned by the university, currently also houses several commercial offices.

The original location of the Museum, beginning in 1970, was on the ground floor of the James White Library. It, along with the newly founded Institute of Archaeology, moved to its current location in 1982. Although this facility, across from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, has featured a compelling exhibit covering an entire floor of the building, the remainder of the space, which consists of offices and an archaeological library, did not provide for storage and laboratory space. As a result, researchers and students had to make use of temporary facilities housed in other buildings on campus. In addition, the current building was built earlier last century and no longer functions economically in terms of such infrastructure items as electricity and heating. As a result it has been slated for destruction as soon as a new facility was available. When it became apparent that the vacated bank building had remained empty for an extended period of time, Drs. Younker and Merling approached the University Administration about acquiring it as the

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Future home of the Institute of Archaeology/Horn Archaeological Museum.

new location for the Institute/Museum. After a short period of negotiations the University agreed.

The larger facility will allow for much-needed laboratory and work space and will provide a higher profile for the Museum. Because it takes time to design and build a new state-of-the-art exhibit, as well as remodeling the facade of the building, the museum expects to be closed for the next two years. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but believe that the end result will be worth the effort. The Institute offices, laboratories, storage and work areas should be operational within the next four to six months. (David Merling)

Klingbeil on Surveys

On March 24, 2003 Gerald A. Klingbeil, Professor of Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at River Plate Adventist University spoke for the Horn Museum Lectureship. His presentation was entitled *Getting the Big Picture: Surveys in Archaeology*.

Survey work has been a part of the archaeology of Syria-Palestine for more than 150 years. In the past most survey work involved exploring the region and creating topographical maps. Today surveys have two distinct research designs. The central site survey examines a specific archaeological site and its surrounding area. This type of survey investigates regional development, population size and settlement patterns. The regional survey does not examine a specific site, but focuses upon different aspects of the region's history, like population development during various periods.

Archaeologists have begun to use sophisticated technologies in their survey work. Many use a Global Positioning System (GPS) to map site locations fairly quickly to within 1 meter. This makes it possible to get accurate measurements of

Gerald A. Klingbeil

the topography and geography. Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) enables measurements to be recorded quickly and later used for creating computer-generated maps. This data can be used to make three-dimensional reconstructions of buildings or other architectural features.

In addition to creating surface maps, archaeologists also use other technologies to map potential structures below the ground in preparation for excavation. Geophysical Diffraction Tomography (GDT) uses sound waves to identify subsurface anomalies and with the help of mathematical algorithms a computer can produce complete images of subsurface features. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) also uses low-powered radio waves to detect density changes in the subsurface layers and locate buried objects. A large machine is pulled over a grid area and a radar profile is generated. Unfortunately, some results may be inconclusive because of the soil conductivity and other factors.

In order to keep track of much of the information generated by the various technologies and methodologies employed in the survey process, many archaeologists use Geographical Information System (GIS). This technology incorporates geographically referenced data points such as soil, artifact and settlement types, roads, water systems and topography in order to view related information at different periods in time. With the help of this system, archaeologists can determine the spatial and environmental signature of a specific site.

Dr. Klingbeil is cautious about the role technology may play in future survey work. He is concerned that uniform standards have not been employed and that data from different sites may not be compatible. He suggests that research designs and methodology should be clearly defined and any presuppositions articulated. A standard terminology also needs to be adopted. In addition, a total random sample needs to be collected including all ceramics and other data that can be found on site. This data should be processed by trained software specialists and published as quickly as possible. (Robert D. Bates)

Ortiz on David

On April 7, 2003 Steven M. Ortiz, Professor of Archaeology at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Director of the Tel Gezer Excavation, presented a lecture for the Horn Museum Lecture Series entitled *House of David or the Tent of David? Current Issues and Trends in Biblical Archaeology*.

Recent archaeology has tended to look negatively on David and Solomon. The Davidic dynasty is mentioned in only a couple of extrabiblical texts and there are no state documents from Jerusalem in the 10th century BC. David is now seen as more of a bedouin chief than a king. Along with this trend there has been a move by Israel Finkelstein and others to the so-called low chronology. This view is essentially the revival of older arguments bolstered by evidence from more recent excavations at Jezreel and is an attempt to close the so-called 9th century BC gap in archaeological knowledge of ceramic development. This position shifts ceramics and their associated material culture 100 years later, into the 9th century BC, creating a domino effect on the chronology of the rest of the Iron Age.

It is further assumed that two cultures living side-by-side must have the

same pottery, hence because Iron Age I Philistine wares do not appear at Lachish VI, these wares must have been introduced later. However, ethnographical studies have shown that contemporary cultures in close proximity do have distinct material cultures. Applying a simple trait-list approach that assumes that if David lived in the 10th century BC there should be empirical evidence, then the lack of such evidence would seem to indicate that the associated biblical stories are either fabrications or embellishments. However, other factors such as 1) the small percentage of Jerusalem that has actually been excavated; 2) that most places where evidence might be found are inhabited by modern residences; 3) that what little evidence there is must be interpreted; and 4) the bent of those who control that interpretation, also play a role.

The alternative standard (high) chronology views the 10th and 9th century BC ceramic forms to be similar, developing slowly from the 10th to the 8th centuries BC when they became standardized. They were further affected by regional variation. It has been noted that the surfaces at Jezreel are disturbed and the pottery actually reflects earlier 10th century BC occupation, as at Samaria. The so-called 9th century BC gap reflects a lack of data due to the fact that few sites with ceramic material from this century have been excavated. There is also a need for the development of statistical models which target information on regional variation. Emphasis should be placed on processes rather than on a simple trait-list approach. Finally, one should not dismiss the few extrabiblical texts that are available such as the house of David and the Mesha

Steven Ortiz

Inscription. These texts, in fact, support a kingship rather than a bedouin view of David. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)

BE OUR PARTNER

As the Museum moves to a larger facility and takes on a wider role in the community, we need your help more than ever. Please support Archaeology at Andrews University with your generous donation.

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RANDOM SURVEY

Temple Annexed by Caligula

This summer a team of archaeologists from Stanford and Oxford digging in the Roman Forum found evidence that Emperor Caligula had extended his palace by annexing the nearby Temple of Castor and Pollux. An examination of nearby pipes indicates that the street separating the two structures had been destroyed in order to build a new drainage system and to accommodate the temple annexation. This discovery appears to confirm historical sources indicating Caligula's fixation with his own deification.

Archaeological Park at Ramat Rahel Recently Opened

The Ramat Rahel Archaeological Park in Israel recently opened for visitors. It includes features from various time periods including the remains of two royal palaces, dating to the 9th and 7th centuries BC. It is possibly the OT site of Beit Hakerem.

To discover more about archaeology, the Institute, and the Museum, contact us at:

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Olympic Construction

As a result of the construction projects currently underway in Greece to prepare for the 2004 Olympics, over 20 new archaeological excavations have been initiated. Discoveries have been made from various periods, including an aqueduct built by the Roman Emperor Hadrian (r. AD 117-38). Officials maintain that the projects are still on schedule, though some have been modified to preserve the archaeological findings.

Hezekiah's Tunnel Update

Researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Reading University in England recently announced that radiometric dating has been performed on Hezekiah's Tunnel resulting in a date of ca. 700 BC. Until now, the only indications of its date were references to its construction in the biblical text and the Siloam inscription, neither with exact dates or names. Scientific dating now places the tunnel at the time indicated in the biblical text.

Death of Walter Rast

The archaeological community is mourning the loss of Walt Rast, who died on Aug. 22. He is best-known for his excavations at Ta'anach and Bab edh-Dhra', his presidency of *ACOR* and as editor of *BASOR*.

NEWSLETTER

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