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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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ANNUAL MEETINGS

The 2002 annual meeting of the *American Schools of Oriental Research* was held in Toronto from November 20-24, with the *Near East Archaeological Society* annual meeting from November 19-22, and that of the *Society of Biblical Literature* from November 20-23. The ASOR meetings were well-represented with over 600 people in attendance, and presentations made by over 200 participants from more than 15 different countries. Plenary sessions were headed up by David Stronach, Sy Gitin and Trude Dothan. The number of book publishers at the ASOR conference continues to increase each year, and for the first time since ASOR and SBL have held separate venues, archaeological books published jointly by the Institute of Archaeology and Andrews University Press were available at ASOR thanks to the joint publications table hosted by Chris Madell of ASOR. The Toronto location for the meetings had the added attraction of the nearby Royal Ontario Museum, which was also displaying the James Ossuary as a temporary exhibit. A special session hosted by SBL featured André Lemaire (the epigrapher of the inscription on the ossuary) and other specialists including John Painter and Steve Mason as well as Eric Meyers, who has called the authenticity of the inscription into question.

A number of Madaba Plains Project personnel chaired sessions this year including: Constance Gane (Archaeology and Mesopotamia); Randall Younker (Symposium on Recent Research in the Madaba Plains of Jordan I); Larry Herr (Symposium on Recent Research in the Madaba Plains of Jordan II); Øystein LaBianca (Bronze Age World Systems Cycles of Expansion and Contraction Revisited); Douglas Clark (Special Program on Tell Miqne-Ekron: A Paradigm for Philistine Studies); Gloria London (Water in Antiquity); Timothy Harrison (Reports on Recent Research in the Amuq Plain and Vicinity, Southeastern Turkey); Gary Christopherson (Geographic Information

(continued on p. 2)



John Painter, André Lemaire, Eric Meyers and Hershel Shanks at the James Ossuary session.

Systems); and David Graf (Arabia I and II). In addition, Rhonda Root chaired a poster session and Carolyn Rivers a session on Outreach Education.

Presentations by members of *MPP* included: Ghattas Sayej (Lithic Intra-assembly Variability); Larry Herr and Douglas Clark (Tall al-‘Umayri [Madaba Plains Project]: Report on the 2002 Season); Douglas Clark (Iron I Domestic Housing [especially the “four-room” House] in Jordan); Bethany Walker (Reassessing the Islamic Qusur at Tall Hisban); Øystein LaBianca and Lynda Carroll (Settlement and Land Use During the Late Islamic Period at Tall Hisban); Chang-Ho Ji (The Iron Age Temple at Khirbat ‘Ataruz); Michele Daviau (In the Shadow of a Giant: Egyptian Influence in Transjordan); Michael Hasel (The “Foes of Shasu” and the Origin of Israel); Gary Christopherson (Topographic Prominence in the Archaeological Landscape on the Madaba Plain, Jordan); Timothy Harrison (The Tell Tayinat Archaeological project, 1999-2002); and Gloria London (Women Potters and Craft Specialization in a Pre-Market Economy).

Lawrence T. Geraty, the new president of *ASOR*, chaired a number of committee meetings as well as presiding at the *ASOR* Membership Meeting, and the *MPP* Staff Consultation; Larry Herr chaired committee meetings connected

with the Committee on Publications, while Bethany Walker chaired the Consultation of Dig Directors in Jordan and Carolyn Rivers chaired the Committee on Outreach Education.

At the Near East Archaeological Society meetings David Merling, president of *NEAS*, chaired board and business sessions and Paul Ray, the editor of the *Near East Archaeological Society Bulletin*, presented a paper entitled *Kemosh and Moabite Religion*. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Van der Steen

On Monday, November 18, 2002, Eveline J. van der Steen presented a lecture entitled *Traveling with the Bedouin: A Journey into Iron Age Transjordan* for the Horn Archaeological Museum Lectureship. Dr. van der Steen has excavated at Deir ‘Alla and Tell Abu Sarbat, and was field director for the Khirbet Balamah excavations. Currently she is an Urban archaeologist in Delft, Netherlands.

Dr. van der Steen believes that there are many correlations between the tribal kingdoms of the bedouin in Transjordan during the 19th century and the tribal cultures of Transjordan in the Iron Age.

During the 19th century, the whole area of present-day Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Israel and Lebanon was inhabited by Arab bedouin. They were nomads who lived in cultivated areas in spring and summer and retreated to the desert in winter. Among the main tribes in Transjordan were the Anazah in the NW, the Beni-Sakhr in the Central region and the Huweitat in the SW.

In addition, there were several smaller tribes who were subjected to the main tribes. These tribes were mainly pastoralists who paid for protection from the larger tribes.

Initially the Ottoman empire was unsuccessful in controlling this region and focused their attention on protecting the Hajj route. The government paid protection money (*Khawa*), but the pilgrims were regularly attacked by various bedouin tribes.

Bedouin society developed their own economy and their own set of rules. This economy included gateway-market towns like Salt, Nablus and Kerak which functioned semi-independently but paid protection money to the main tribes in the region. Trade routes were established between the main towns. The tribes cultivated the fields around them and their produce was traded with other tribes. This economic system was completely controlled by the large bedouin tribes, who built fortress-cities to protect the trade routes and served as a markets.

Using the the model of tribal kingdoms proposed by Ø. Labianca and R. Younker, van der Steen believes society in Transjordan during the Late Iron Age was largely a tribal society much like the bedouin of the 19th century.

According to van der Steen, Moab and Ammon functioned like a tribal society. Since different professions were possible within a tribal unit, tribe members could diversify into areas other than herding sheep and goats. International and local trade centers were utilized by large and small tribal groups. Heter-archical structures allowed for several power centers. These existed alongside each other



Paul Ray and Keith Schoville at *NEAS* meetings.

and were based on sociopolitical or economic resources, so that religious centers and international and local trade could all function independently.

Tribal affiliations were based on a flexible line of claimed ancestry. Tribes could affiliate with others or change their affiliation depending on circumstances. In addition, territorial affiliations were flexible and allowed for fluid settlement patterns that could change in response to climate, politics or trade. This made the forming and changing of affiliations very easy.

Eventually, this flexibility also facilitated the rise of kings in a supratribal hierarchy without extinguishing the tribal order. The association of specific tribes with their territories was maintained even

in changed political environments.

Dr. van der Steen suggests that the Tribal Kingdom model fits the situation described in the Mesha inscription. The kingdom of Moab was a tribal society that was united into a supertribal hierarchy. Mesha succeeded his father as king and strived to make Moab into a real kingdom by building roads, cisterns and palaces; expressing a responsibility to all of Moab. The towns that Mesha rebuilt, such as Ba'al Maon, Beth Bamot, Bezer and Qarḥoh, functioned as semi-independent tribal power centers in the distribution of international and local trade. Each town with its smaller tribal groups owed its allegiance to Mesha and probably claimed some type of common ancestry with the larger Dibonite tribe. (Robert D. Bates)



Eveline J. van der Steen.



AL-MAKTABA
The Bookstore

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RANDOM SURVEY

Queen Ti Found

Egyptologists have discovered a 10-ft. stone statue of Queen Ti while they were excavating near the Colossi of Memnon. Queen Ti was the wife of Amenhotep III and the mother of Akhenaten, the pharaoh who introduced monotheism to Egypt for a short time. Also a massive 100-ton statue of Amenhotep III, lying on its side, was located next to where Queen Ti was found. It is most likely that her statue was placed next to that of her husband as part of the huge funerary temple complex built for Pharaoh Amenhotep III.

eNewly Discovered City in Jordan

Archaeologists have begun excavating a recently discovered Roman city, possibly named Capitolias, at the site of Beit Ras. Excavations have uncovered the remains of an amphitheater and other buildings and will continue into the 2006 excavation season.

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How to Date a Brick

At present, scientists use a method called thermoluminescence that reveals when minerals were last heated. A new method, developed by the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, heats up the bricks to date them. Since, bricks swell very slowly as they age, scientists can predict the age of a brick by how much the brick shrinks when it is subjected to dry heat.

The War and Ancient Sites

Archaeologists have grown increasingly concerned about the effect the current war in Iraq will have on ancient archaeological sites and the potential for looting in the absence of a police force. The US military says that it has integrated measures to identify and protect sites of religious, cultural and historical importance in Iraq into every phase of the planning and operations. Through the help of major universities, military spokesmen say that over 10,000 ancient sites have been identified for preservation and consideration.

Mallowan's Notes

Recently, materials collected by Max Mallowan have gone on display at the British Museum. In addition to Mallowan's personal notes and observations from Tel Arbid, the *BM* is displaying 336 items including vessels, seals, figurines and jewelry.

NEWSLETTER



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