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Spring 2004

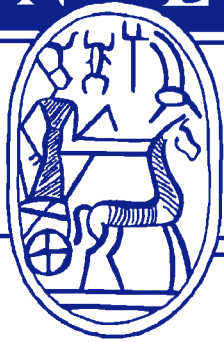
Institute of Archaeology & Horn Archaeological Museum Newsletter Volume 25.2

Paul J. Ray Jr.

Robert D. Bates

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NEWSLETTER



INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

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Conference on Early Israelite History

Over 80 people attended the conference on “Critical Issues in Early Israelite History” held at Andrews University from March 26-28, 2004. The focus of the conference was to reevaluate recent theories and stimulate discussions relating to early Israelite history, archaeological data and the biblical text. During the past several decades archaeological discussions on the origins of Israel have tended to ignore the biblical text because it has been seen by some as primarily theological in nature. This theological “patina,” it has been thought, has obscured its historical value. Hence, archaeological theories concerned with the origins of Israel currently focus on indigenous peoples who eventually self-authenticated themselves as “Israelites,” on the basis of economic, environmental or sociological processes. While much valuable information has come from these exercises, it is difficult to treat the subject holistically when part of the data is ignored. At the same time, ancient texts from Mesopotamia and Egypt, which also carry theological baggage, are nevertheless mined for historical information. Difficult questions relating to the early history of Israel demand serious attention, and that endeavor, the organizers and presenters of this conference submit, can best be served by dealing with all of the available data.

The opening ceremonies of the conference included welcomes by Randall Younker and David Merling, the conference organizers; Niels-Erik Andreason, the president of Andrews University; and Lawrence T. Geraty, the president of the American Schools of Oriental Research. Papers included: “The Jericho and Ai of the Book of Joshua” (Richard Hess); Merenptah’s Reference to Israel: Critical Issues for Early Israel (Michael Hasel); Classical Models for the Appearance of Israel (Paul Ray); Recent Models for the Appearance of Israel in Canaan (Patrick Mazani); The

Continued on p. 2



Conference Presenters: (front l-r: Merling, Younker, and Hawkins; middle l-r: Fleming, Chavalas, Wood, Hess, and Klingbeil; back l-r: Velázquez, Mazani, Monson, Ortiz, Ray, Younger, and Master).

Rhetorical Structuring of the Joshua Conquest Narratives (K. Lawson Younger); The Search for Joshua's Ai (Bryant Wood); Gilgal: An Early Israelite Site for Dedication and Military Staging (David Merling); Israelite Settlement at the Margins of the Northern Hill Country: Clues from Tell Dothan (Daniel Master); The Southern Shephelah as a Check and Balance in Reconstructing Early Israelite History (John Monson); A View Through the Window of the House of David (James Fisher); Re-writing Philistine History: Recent Trends in Philistine Archaeology and Biblical Studies (Steven Ortiz); Processes of Ethnogenesis and the Question of the Emergence of Israel



Classroom/reception area in new research centers wing.



Lawrence T. Geraty opens session.

(Randall Younker); Tribe and State: Reflections of Early Israel in Light of the Mari Archives (Daniel Fleming); Early Israel Context Viewed through the Archaeology of North Mesopotamia and Syria (Mark Chavalas); The Making of Myths: Exodus and Exile as Ideology (Efrain Velázquez); Between North and South: The Archaeology of Religion in Late Bronze Age Palestine and the Period of the Settlement (Gerald Klingbeil); and The Survey of Manasseh and the Origin of the Early Hill-Country Settlers (Ralph Hawkins).

Drs. Merling and Younker plan to publish the conference papers in a book-length manuscript. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Open House

On March 25, 2004, the Institute of Archaeology/Horn Archaeological Museum held an open house in honor of the completion of the reconstruction of the first wing of its new four-winged facility. The open house was hosted by President and Mrs. Andreason and the Institute/Museum staff. The new wing consists of a classroom/reception area where archaeology classes and the Museum Lecture series can be held. Along the sides of the room are 11 low-light ambiance centers of the major

archaeological periods, featuring the Nathan Greene murals from the old Museum and a few artifacts for illustration. The new wing also holds two research centers for the major excavations sponsored by the Institute of Archaeology. A temporary display featuring a bedouin tent as well as artifacts from the various archaeological periods was set up in the future exhibit wing and the 200+ people who attended were able to walk through the whole building to get an idea of what things would be like when the entire facility is completed. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Local ladies in the bedouin tent of the temporary exhibit: (front: Becky Ray; back l-r: Barbara Ray, Mariella Velázquez, Stephanie Merling, and Jennifer Groves).

Monumental Destruction

On April 20, 2004, Peter Brand, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Memphis, Tennessee and Director of the Karnak Hypostyle Hall Project in Egypt, presented an illustrated lecture entitled: *Preserving Egypt's Threatened Past: the Karnak Hypostyle Hall Project*. Dr. Brand was a research assistant for the Akhenaten Temple Project and served as the epigrapher, staff artist and is currently the director of the Karnak Hypostyle Hall Project. He was the first visiting scholar to lecture in the newly renovated lecture room at the new Horn Archaeological Museum. In addition, he served as the external examiner for a dissertation presented for scholarly review on April 21, 2004.

Within the last decade, the work of preserving the Hypostyle Hall at Karnak has become more pressing. The Aswan high dam, which was built in the 1960s, created lake Nasser, and has affected the local climate. Steady rains throughout the winter months, rising ground-water level

and increasing humidity levels are having a negative effect on the monuments.

Many of the reliefs carved on the walls are flaking off in large chunks as water is drawn up through the stone like a sponge and evaporates on the surface leaving the salts behind. As the salt crystallizes and expands, the surface of the monuments resembles "peeling paint." Although efforts have been made to protect the surface, the destruction is coming from the inside of the monuments where water has seeped into the sandstone. Dr. Brand believes that only a careful recording of these reliefs can preserve them for future study.

Among the reliefs that may be threatened is the Merenptah wall found just outside the Great Hypostyle Hall. Many scholars have equated the reliefs of this wall with the names mentioned on the Merenptah stele, including the name of Israel. The question remains as to which section of the relief depicts the Israelites.

Some scholars, including Redford, dispute the dating of this wall to the reign of Merenptah, claiming that Ramses II's name had been erased and two successive names were written in its place.

Dr. Brand believes that he has found



Peter Brand.

evidence for assigning the wall to Merenptah instead of Rameses II. He suggests that although other names were written on the monument, its surface was not erased deeply enough to allow for the name of Rameses II, and that the first name written on the wall was actually that of his son Merenptah. There is simply not enough depth on the surface inside this cartouche to account for three names instead of two. (Robert D. Bates)



Andrews University Press

William Foxwell Albright and the Origins of Biblical Archaeology

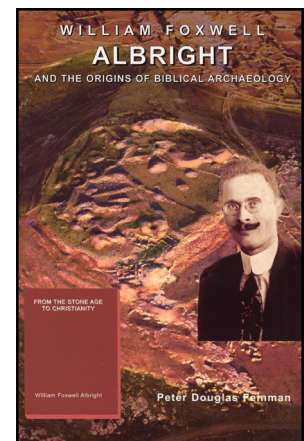
by Peter Douglas Feinman

This study seeks to understand the origin of the scholarship of William Foxwell Albright (1891-1971), the Dean of (American) biblical archaeology, from his birth in 1891 to his departure for The Johns Hopkins University in 1913. It focuses on the influences and events which defined the world in which he was nurtured and suggests how his adult scholarship derived from these factors. Chapters include: 1) Introduction; 2) The Early Years (1891-1903); 3) The Midwest Years (1903-1913); 4) Albright's Journey (1913); and 5) Summary and Conclusions.

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RANDOM SURVEY

Early Dynastic Necropolis Discovered

A massive unlooted necropolis of the First and Second Dynasties of Egypt has been discovered near Cairo. The Australian excavators believe the site may contain up to 10,000 burials predating the pyramids at Giza. The 20 tombs examined thus far have included objects made of alabaster and copper, gold jewelry, and a limestone inscription in a very early version of hieroglyphics. The necropolis apparently contains tombs for all social classes of the period.

Head of Marcus Aurelius found at Petra

A white marble head of the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius was recently found within the temenos of Qasar al-Bint, suggesting that he was worshiped at Petra. The head is twice life-size, and assumed to be part of a yet undiscovered larger full-body statue.

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Lecture Halls of Ancient Alexandria

Polish and Egyptian archaeologists working in Alexandria have found 13 large semicircular rooms, each featuring benches arranged around an elevated podium. These findings, near a Greek theater, have led the team to conclude that these rooms are ancient lecture halls connected to the great Library of Alexandria, whose exact location is still unknown.

Pool of Siloam Rediscovered?

Archaeologists John Seligman, Ronny Reich, and Eli Shukrun have recently discovered a pool associated with the southernmost wall of Jerusalem's City of David that dates to the Second Temple Period. While still unsure as to how water may have reached this pool from Hezekiah's Tunnel, the excavators believe this to be a stronger possibility for the biblical Pool of Siloam than the Byzantine-era pool now commonly associated with the site.

Human Sacrifice at Abydos

Mortuary enclosures at Abydos, Egypt, surrounding the tomb of Aha, the first king of the first Dynasty, suggest that various officials and servants were sacrificed to provide services for the king in the afterlife.

NEWSLETTER



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