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Archaeological Museum Newsletter

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Archaeological Museum

Winter 2004

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NEWSLETTER



INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Table of Contents

	Page
<i>ASOR 2003</i>	1
<i>Daviau at AU</i>	2
<i>Ninow on Moab</i>	3
<i>AS 8</i>	3
<i>Random Survey</i>	4

ASOR ANNUAL MEETING 2003

This year's annual meeting of the *American Schools of Oriental Research* was held in Atlanta, GA from Nov. 19-22. It offered 52 sessions, with 250 different papers, and was attended by almost 600 people. The annual meeting of the *Near East Archaeological Society* was held concurrently (Nov. 19-21) and the *Society of Biblical Literature* annual meeting immediately after (Nov. 22-25).

Madaba Plains Project members and affiliates who presented papers this year included David Merling (The Small Finds of Tall Jalul, 1992-2000); Robert Bates and Randall Younker (An Egyptian Seal from Tall Jalul, Jordan); Tim Harrison (Community Life, Household Production, and the Ceramic Industry of Early Bronze Age Tall al-'Umayri); David Chaudoir (Ethnohistorical Approaches to Late Ottoman Hisban, Jordan); Bethany Walker (The Nalka-Hibras Survey: Archaeological Investigations of the Mamluk Agricultural Policy); David Graf (Nabonidus' Tayma': New Archaeological and Epigraphic Evidence); and Gary Christopherson (Using GIS to Understand the Umyyad Period in the Region of Tall al-'Umayri, Jordan). Those chairing sessions included Constance Gane (Reports on Current Excavations, *ASOR*-Afflicted II); Carolyn Draper-Rivers (Communicating Archaeology to the Public); Øystein LaBianca and Bert de Vries (Material Culture and History: Ottoman Syro-Palestine); David Graf (Arabia I) and Gary Christopherson

Continued on p. 2

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Rami G. Khouri speaks to the Presidential Forum at the ASOR meetings.

(GIS and Archaeology). In addition, Douglas Clark and James Flanagan presented a workshop on Integrating Technology with Archaeology. *ASOR* president Lawrence Geraty chaired the Presidential Forum, at which the well-known reporter Rami Khouri of the Daily Star Newspaper in Beirut was the keynote speaker focusing on the theme: The Future of American Archaeology in the Post-Saddam Middle East. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Daviau at AU

P. M. Michèle Daviau, Professor of Archaeology and Classical Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada and the Director of the Wadi ath-Thamad Project in Jordan, visited Andrews University. Dr. Daviau has excavated at Tell Hesi, Tall al-'Umayri, Tall Jawa (south), and Kirbat al-Mudayna on the Wadi ath-Thamad. While at Andrews, Dr. Daviau and her colleague Dr. Ellen Kirby examined the Tall Jalul pottery and looked for potter's marks. On Nov. 6, 2004, Dr. Daviau presented an illustrated lecture for the Horn Museum Lecture Series entitled: *Temples and Towns in Moab*, in which she described her excavations at Kirbat al-Mudayna.

Kirbat-al Mudayna is a dual site that includes an Iron Age site and a Nabataean settlement. Dr. Daviau has been excavating there since 1996. Early surveys found an Iron Age II (900-550 B.C.) fortified town with a moat. The city walls were well-preserved and the walls of some buildings were ca. 2 m high. Excavations in the northern section revealed three major buildings: a gate building, gate shrine and temple with an industrial building. The heavily fortified six-chamber gate has three rooms on each side, a central roadway, front bastions and a tower that resembles similar gates in Cisjordan. Unlike other gates, small walls blocked the entrances to the chambers from the road, restricting access to the small doorways in the walls. The rooms



P. M. Michèle Daviau.

contained storage vessels.

The gate area showed signs of a major conflagration. The gate was heavily burned and fell into the street. The upper story debris included a miniature altar, large limestone basins and loom weights. This may have been an industrial center. The fortification included a casemate wall that curves from the bastion around the tell and a small tower. The bastion had a small plaza, a bench and two standing stones of a gate shrine.

The temple area contained a courtyard with over 1200 animal bones and poorly-constructed temple walls which were hastily made in a secondary phase. In front of the walls were plastered benches. A single bench divided the room into two sections: a principal room and an annex. A podium stone and several altars were found in the destruction layers of the temple. Many artifacts were found among the debris including figurines, jewelry and lamps. In the annex a limestone mortar bowl and a gaming board were found. In addition, a candelabra-shaped altar with a small soot-stained bowl on its top was also found. Used for burning incense, this altar had an inscription on the side in what may be a previously unrecorded Moabite dialect. According to Dr. P. Dion it says, "this is the incense altar which Elišama' made for Yassap the daughter of 'Ewat." All of these items are consistent with an effort by the inhabitants of the city to consult

their gods while under siege.

Recently, Dr. Daviau has begun excavating a site from the Mudayna survey. On the main road heading south from Madaba are the heavily fortified ruins of Rumeil. On a hillside south of Rumeil, Dr. Daviau began excavating a small mound surrounded by a perimeter wall which was built on the bedrock. This site is called Wadi Thamad Site 13. Initial excavations on the eastern side exposed a row of ovens that were reused over time as well as many animal bones. Dr. Daviau believes that this may have been a place where cultic meals were shared by local residents. Later, the site probably developed into a wayside shrine.

Excavation on the western sector revealed many figurines of various styles. Some of the figurine heads had natural or local hairstyles while others had the Egyptian blunt shoulder-cut style. Many of the female figurines had extra clay added around their body so they could be affixed to a flat surface. Usually, this type of figurine is attached to a clay model of a temple. Though many fragments of these temple models were found, there do not seem to be any attached figurines associated with them. Several ceramic statues were found. They were made on a potter's wheel and shaped like jugs. Some had decorative features including painted clothing. There were also model furniture, miniature ceramic vessels and model buildings that may have been small shrines. In addition, a bluish-colored amulet of the Egyptian god "Horus as a child" was also found.

Dr. Daviau concluded that Site 13 was a wayside shrine with two periods of use. Initially, the local people used the shrine. They had animal sacrifices and communal meals at the site. They cooked food in the ovens, but did not process the food at the site. Later, travelers came and brought high-status gifts including jewelry, which were left at the shrine. They had statues made of themselves to remind the god or goddess to protect them on their journey. (Robert D. Bates)



Ninow On Moab

Friedbert Ninow, Professor of OT and Archaeology at Friedensau Adventist University in Friedensau, Germany and Director of the Khirbat Mamariyah Project in Jordan, presented an illustrated lecture for the Horn Museum Lecture Series on Nov. 17, 2003 entitled *At the Fringes of the Moabite Plateau: New Discoveries in Ancient Moab*.

In 1983-84 Udo Worschech conducted the Northwest Arq El-Kerak Survey, following it up with an excavation of the large Iron Age site of Balua'. Drs. Worschech and Ninow worked together at the site from 1987-2000. The main feature at Balua' is a fortress (*Qasr*) inhabited in Iron Age II. It contained a number of rooms, one of which had an oven (*tabun*) with ancient flour beside it, on the ground. Other finds at site include an inscription [b]mlk reading either the "house" or "daughter of the king." This find, along with the size of the site, suggest that Balua' was a residential city of

the king of Moab, perhaps Ar (Num 21:15). Two standing stones (*maššēbôt*) were found, erected outside of a house, and a goddess was found in a room behind it. Female figurines holding round discs were found beneath a floor of another room. On the other side of the Wadi from Balua', a tomb was discovered which had ceramics from the Early Bronze Age through Iron Age I, including Iron Age I painted wares, beads and a male figurine, perhaps depicting the Moabite god *Kemoš*. The site of Balua' was abandoned sometime during Iron Age II.

Dr. Ninow has since done a survey of the Wadi al-Balua', which leads northward as a tributary to the Wadi Mujib (biblical Arnon). While surveying the wadi, he discovered part of a road, possibly an extension of the one mentioned by Mesha' on the Moabite Stone (line 26), as well as a Nabataean fort. At the end of the wadi where it enters into the Mujib, he found a large Iron Age fortress with casemate walls and a round tower on top, overlooking the descent to the water. This site (Khirbat Mamariyah) is located in the



Friedbert Ninow.

middle of the wadi, leading Dr. Ninow to suggest an association with "the town in the middle of the valley" mentioned in Josh 13:9. Excavation began in 2001. The site is very similar to the sites of Khirbat al-Mudayna N and S in that all three sites have casemate walls with pillared-room houses around the periphery of the settlements and almost identical ceramics from the late Iron Age I (1100-1000 B.C.). (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



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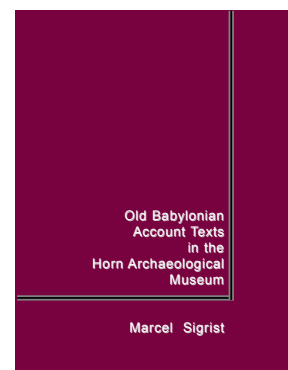
AS VIII (= AUCT V) Old Babylonian Account Texts in the Horn Archaeological Museum

by Marcel Sigrist.

ISBN 1-883925-39-8

2003; v + 325 pp. cloth: 8.5 x 11"; \$49.99.

Sigrist completes his publication of cuneiform tablets in the Horn Archaeological Museum collection with this corpus of 276 Old Babylonian tablets. Once again, Sigrist presents index lists of personal names, names of deities, and geographical names with a catalogue (register and description) of the individual tablets as well as a classification of the texts ordered according to reigning king. Indexes of Akkadian words (by transliteration and by sign) are provided. The main body of the publication includes treatments of each tablet, including: tablet identification information, line-drawn illustrations, transliteration of all writing, and translation of most of the texts. This well-conceived and designed publication readily presents user-friendly data for study and comparison.





RANDOM SURVEY

Ancient Puteoli Excavated

The ancient Roman port city of Puteoli, lying under the 16th-century streets of modern Pozzuoli, is now being excavated underground. Using steel beams to support portions of the modern city, Italian archaeologists have already found a marble temple from the first century B.C., complete with colonnades, arches, a white and gold dome and fragments of religious frescoes. Ancient Puteoli was the harbor into which Paul sailed and visited for seven days before traveling to Rome (Acts 28:13-14).

Renovation of Theater of Dionysus

The Theater of Dionysus at the base of the Athens Acropolis, which was in use over 2500 years ago for the plays of Euripides and Sophocles, is being renovated for modern use. It will seat 4,000 spectators, and utilize 75 percent original and 25 percent modern material.

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Bulge Repaired

Following a report that centuries of erosion caused a bulge in the southern wall of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, Jordanian experts spent \$140,000 to restore the affected 250 square meters of the wall. The Jordanian Minister of Religious Affairs recently announced that the year-long project was completed and that the wall will now be protected against predicted toppling.

First Frontal Portrait of a Pharaoh

Egyptologists have restored the first known portrait of a Pharaoh depicting a frontal image rather than the typical profile. Painted on a wooden board and buried in front of a tomb in Luxor, the image could possibly be Tuthmosis III or Hatshepsut (Tuthmosis III's stepmother who was often depicted as a man). The portrait seems to be either a sketch for a statue or simply a casual drawing made by an apprentice.

Douglas Clark Named new ASOR Director

Congratulations are in order for Douglas R. Clark of the MPP-'Umayri for his appointment as the new Executive Director of ASOR. Doug took up his new responsibilities as of January 1, 2004.

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