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Winter 2005

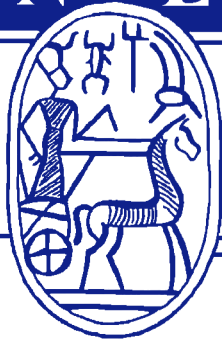
Institute of Archaeology & Horn Archaeological Museum Newsletter Volume 26.1

Paul J. Ray Jr.

Matthew Grey

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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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ANNUAL AT THE ALAMO

The 2004 annual meeting of the *American Schools of Oriental Research* was held in San Antonio, Texas from Nov. 17-20. About 550 people attended the 48 available sessions, where 212 different papers were read. The plenary session was given by British archaeologist Ian Hodder on New Discoveries at Çatal Höyük. As usual, the *Near East Archaeological Society* annual meeting was held concurrently (Nov. 16-19) and the annual meeting of the *Society of Biblical Literature* immediately after (Nov. 20-23).

A number of Madaba Plains Project members and affiliates participated in various aspects of the meeting venue as in the past. Those who chaired sessions this year included: Constance Gane (Archaeology of Mesopotamia I); Bethany Walker (The Literary and Spiritual Worlds of Medieval Persia: Exploring SAMA's Islamic Ceramic Collection and Archaeology of Jordan); Douglas Clark with James Flanagan (ETANA [Electronic Tools and Ancient Near Eastern Archives] Workshop I: ETANA Digital Library Project); Gloria London (Outreach Education: Communicating Archaeology to the Public); Bert de Vries (Material Culture in Ottoman Syro-Palestine); David Graf (Arabia I); Lawrence Geraty (Presidential Forum: Archaeology, History and the Passion of the Christ); and Rhonda Root and Gary Christopherson (Poster Session: New Technologies and Their Uses in Archaeology).

Individual submissions were made by Larry Herr with Joe Seger and James Weinstein (The Development of ASOR's Publication Policy); Timothy Harrison (New Foundations and the

(cont'd. on p. 2)



Lawrence Turner, Randall Younker and Arthur Chadwick lecture on Z Maz utilization.

Evidence for Urban Expansion at Iron Age Ta'yinat); Mark Ziese (Persistent Potters and the Dynamics of Resistance at Early Bronze Age Tell Taannek); Bethany Walker and Øystein LaBianca (MPP – Tall Hisban 2004: Preliminary Report); Randall Younker with Arthur Chadwick and Lawrence Turner (Report on the Utilization of the Z Maz GPS Survey System at Tall Jalul, 2004: A Quicker and More Accurate Way for Mapping and Drafting); Moise Isaac (The Politics of Textual Social Discourse in Karatepe Phoenician Inscriptions); Øystein LaBianca and Adam Fenner (Was Hisban a “Throne Village” During Ottoman Times ?); David Graf (New Nabataean Aramaic Inscriptions in the Hijaz); Theodore Burge (The Musical Vision of the Chronicler); Douglas Clark and Larry Herr (The 2004 Excavations at Tall al-'Umayri); Chang-Ho Ju (Cities and Tents: A Quantitative Study of the Iron Age Settlement and Society in the Dhiban Plateau); P. M. Michèle Daviau (Khirbat al-Mudayna: Iron Age Tower); and a poster session by Robert Bates (Making Pottery Drawings with a Computer and a Scanner).

At the annual meeting of the *Near East Archaeological Society* David Merling presented a paper on Issues of Apologetics in the Book of Joshua. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Zadok Lecture

Early in October 2004 Ran Zadok, Professor of Mesopotamian, Iranian and Judaic Studies at Tel Aviv University in Israel, visited the Horn Archaeological Museum at Andrews. This visit was his third trip to Andrews University as part of an ongoing project of compiling a prosopography of several Mesopotamian temple cities in ancient Babylonia. This prosopography is based on several thousand published and unpublished cuneiform tablets in various museums throughout the world. Part of Dr. Zadok's project

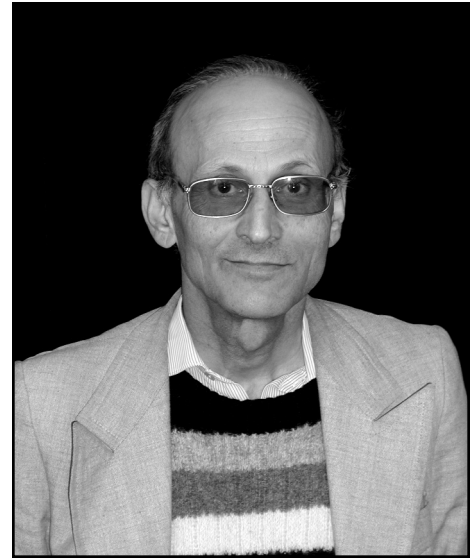
includes studying 70 of the 200 Neo-Babylonian tablets housed at the museum.

Along with his research, Dr. Zadok also presented a lecture entitled *The Earliest Diaspora: The Judeans in Babylonia and Their Neighbors* on Oct. 5. He began by reviewing the OT accounts of the Babylonian deportations: the first in 597 B.C. (including King Jehoiakin and 10,000 trade workers) and the second in 586 B.C. (when Jerusalem was destroyed and its urban elite sent into exile). These deportations resulted in a large Judean population settling for a time in Babylonia.

While this account is drawn primarily from biblical records, lesser known historical documents of the period can be found in cuneiform tablets originally found in royal and private archives. Unlike the continuous historical narrative of the OT account, these tablets consist of economic documents which allow us to reconstruct a profile of the activities of the Judeans in Babylonia from ca. 620-350 B.C. One important example consists of lists of food and clothing allowances issued to foreign rulers and notables, one list even including the name Jehoiakin, the imprisoned king of Judah.

During the period of the Babylonian deportations, Judean deportees settled in northern and central Babylonia. Several hundred Judean names appear on approximately 300 of the 50,000 tablets of the period, making this the largest extrabiblical pool of Judean names in existence. Even so, these documents are primarily from temple and private archives of Babylonians who kept records for other Babylonians. Foreigners, who did not write in cuneiform on clay tablets, but rather in Aramaic on perishable materials, are no doubt under-represented.

Judean names are identified by the consistent use of the theophoric element *YHW*, in cuneiform expressed as *IA-A-HU-U* and *IA-A-MA*. The gentilic “Judean,” however, is found only once as *Yahu.da.yu* in connection with King Jehoiakin. Almost all the recorded Judeans appear to be freemen who were settled by the authorities and subsequent-



Ran Zadok.

ly employed in the temple and private sector as tenants, shepherds and, for the first time, fishermen.

Regrettably, extrabiblical information regarding the religious character of the exiles is rather limited in the economic records. Nevertheless, some details offer insight. None of the documents connected to Judeans seem to have been issued on the Sabbath or during other Jewish holy days, none contain oaths by pagan deities, and there is little evidence of Judeans marrying their daughters to the locals (although they seem to have taken local wives). The dramatic increase in Yahwistic names might also suggest a religious revival among the exiled Judeans of the period.

In conclusion, these cuneiform sources represent considerable evidence for the continuous presence of the exiles in Babylonia. The wider implications, according to Dr. Zadok, include a refutation of some of the more nihilistic notions (of Thompson and others) which claim that there was no Babylonian exile at all. On the contrary, the Babylonian economic tablets are an exceptional source for confirming the reality of the exile and presenting some possibilities for better understanding the nature of Judean life in Babylonia. (Mathew Grey)



Abila Lecture

On Oct. 25, Timothy Snow, Instructor at Mid-South Christian College, in Memphis, TN presented an illustrated presentation for the Horn Museum lecture series entitled *Abila at the Time of Jesus*. Abila is a 25-acre site located about 5 km south of the Yarmuk River. Although the site is not mentioned in the NT, the Decapolis, or ten cities, is mentioned three times (Matt 4:25; Mark 5:20, 7:31). In the second century A.D. Abila is mentioned as one of the Decapolis cities (Ptolemy *Geo* 5.14). However, the list of cities varied over time, and since Abila is not mentioned in the earlier list, it may not have been one of them at that time.

Abila was visited by Seetzen in 1806 and by Schumacher in 1888, but it was not excavated until 1982, after a survey by Mare and others in 1980. It has been worked consistently since that time.

Roman period ruins found at Abila include two layers (basalt and limestone) of a Roman road that runs through the site in Area B, a plaza area, and a bath complex as well as arcosolia and loculi tombs with frescoed walls, *bas reliefs* and occasionally a sump. A torso and lower leg of a statue of Artemis with a quiver for arrows on its back illustrate the type of Roman period artifacts found at the site.

At least seven Byzantine churches (or basilicas) have been found attesting to the impact of Christianity at Abila. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Timothy Snow.



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RANDOM SURVEY

Edom Redated

Excavations at Khirbet en-Nahas suggest a redating of biblical Edom, which is currently thought to have emerged in the 8th century B.C. New evidence for massive copper production, fortifications and building complexes has been found at the site which date from the 12th to 9th centuries B.C. Finds include Egyptian scarabs from the New Kingdom and Third Intermediate Period. These results indicate a date at least 300 years earlier than previously thought, making the site contemporary with much of Israelite history.

Elamite Capital Excavations

Excavations have recently been conducted at ancient Anshan (Tall-i Malyan), one of the two capitals of the Elamites. Discoveries dating as early as 3000 B.C. include buildings, houses, Elamite inscriptions and a seal.

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Egyptian Predynastic Tombs Found at Hierakonpolis

Archaeologists have recently discovered a 5,600-year-old funerary complex near ancient Hierakonpolis. The complex, dating to around 3600 B.C., is the largest yet found from this period and promises to reveal much about the elusive Predynastic period of Egypt, leading up to its first unification. Finds include seven corpses and burial textiles, fine vessels and an intact figure of a cow's head carved from flint.

Egyptian Seagoing Vessel

A team from Boston University has recently discovered the earliest remains of a seagoing vessel from ancient Egypt in two caves on the Red Sea coast. Finds include timber and rigging, as well as pottery which seem to date the artifacts to the 15th century B.C. It has been suggested that the discoveries could be linked to the expedition of Queen Hatshepsut to the land of Punt as depicted on her temple near Luxor.

Ziggurat Found

A ziggurat dating to ca. 2300 B.C. has been discovered near the Iranian city of Jiroft. This is the first ziggurat that has been found in Iran and demonstrates the extent to which Mesopotamian civilization impacted the region.

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