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The Institute of Archaeology & the Horn
Archaeological Museum Newsletter

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Summer 2006

The Institute of Archaeology & Siegfried H. Horn Museum Newsletter Volume 27.3

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NEWSLETTER

The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



Table of Contents

	Page
<i>Auction Dinner</i>	1
<i>Yunker Lecture</i>	2
<i>Global Moments</i>	3
<i>Al-Maktába</i>	3
<i>Random Survey</i>	4

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

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Tent Dinner and Art Auction

On March 13, 2006 the Institute of Archaeology/Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Museum hosted a silent art auction and fundraising dinner for new museum exhibits. A Middle Eastern meal, prepared by Kristy Witzel and other friends of the museum, was served to 25 guests who dined Bedouin-style in the authentic goat-hair tent exhibit. Staff and visitors alike donned traditional Arab garb for portraits in the tent; each diner received a memorable 8 x 10 as a keepsake, courtesy of Christie Goulart.

The art auction and open house followed. Visitors toured the laboratories and exhibits, with an opportunity to bid on original artwork created by Nathan Greene. Greene was commissioned in 1988 to paint biblical stories in historically and archaeologically accurate settings. These murals are part of the permanent collection of the museum. Prior to painting the final versions, the artist drafted eight panels of detailed black and white sketches for use as working documents. The sketches are half the size of the painted versions and were displayed beneath the murals for bidders to purchase.

Fundraising events such as these represent only a small fraction of the goal of the two and a half million dollars needed to make this museum project a reality. To support the Museum's goal and share in its educational vision, online tax-deductible donations may be made via a secure server at www.andrews.edu/archaeology. The website also outlines long-term plans for the new exhibits.

If you would like to schedule a Bedouin tent meal for your group (10-20 people), please contact the Museum at 269.471.6180 for more information. (Jennifer L. Groves)



l-r: Elaine Manley, Rosie Nash, Thomas Baker and Gwen Baker enjoy Arabic food in tent.



Museum staff dress in bedouin-style costumes at the auction dinner.

Yunker Lecture

On January 19, 2006 Dr. Randall W. Yunker, director of the Institute of Archaeology, presented a lecture entitled “In the Trenches: the Battle Between Archaeology and Biblical Criticism” as part of the Horn Museum lecture series. The main emphasis of this lecture was to take another look at the conflict between Biblical Higher Criticism and Archaeology. In a recent article, it was suggested that students should be moving from a faith-based reading of the Bible to a more intelligent, academic reading, i.e., applying Historical Critical methodology. Ironically the same proposal was made in the 1850s in England. However, the discussion at that time became sidetracked by a new discipline, archaeology. Inscriptions and monuments with names of Biblical characters were found which sent the discussion in a different direction.

In 1811 Claudius Rich discovered bricks with writing on them and found a skeleton at Babylon. He was followed by Botta, who discovered a tablet with reference to Sargon II, king of Assyria, the same person that critics said did not exist as he was only mentioned one time in the Bible. Layard found the Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III while excavating at Nimrud (ancient Calah) in 1846 and shipped it to England, where Henry Rawlinson deciphered names mentioned

in the Bible. The first book to use archaeology to lend support to the Bible was written by Oxford historian George Rawlinson, the brother of Henry, in 1859. He started with Genesis and went into the NT systematically addressing the challenges that historical critics had posed.

Other discoveries included the Moabite Stone, the Siloam Tunnel Inscription, and the discovery by George Smith of one tablet of the Gilgamesh Epic, dealing with the Flood, in 1872. He subsequently went to Nineveh to look for missing fragments and found them in 1873-74. While these discoveries were being made, Julius Wellhausen was working on his *Prolegomena*, in which he claimed the Pentateuch was by multiple unknown writers very late in the OT era, and that the biblical histories were unreliable. He ignored the archaeological finds which contradicted most of his claims, and described Israelite history from an evolutionary viewpoint.

Archibald Sayce, an early Assyriologist and linguist, who was responsible for the rediscovery of the Hittites, took on Wellhausen’s claims. Sayce also took on Samuel Driver, who claimed that though archaeology was useful, it could not contradict the “sure” results of historical criticism. Later, Albright expanded Sayce’s arguments and went on to argue that the time sequence of the historical critics was wrong. Van Seters and Thompson have since pointed out Albright’s mistakes

while making illogical claims of their own. After Albright’s death, archaeologists became fragmented in their views, giving rise to the growth of minimalism and the claim that none of the Bible is history.

Dever discovered remains from the time of King Solomon at Gezer, and in 1990s the Tel Dan Inscription, which contains the phrase *bt dvd* “house of David” was found. This sent the minimalist camp scrambling to find alternate explanations. They proffered accusations of fraud by the excavators, which fell flat when it was found that the young lady who found the inscription was also a minimalist, so they suggested alternate translations.

James Hoffmeier wrote the book *Israel in Egypt* (1997) in which he brings together evidence from archaeology and Egyptology to support the historicity of the Exodus. In 2001 he hosted a conference of scholars who attempted to interface archaeology and the Bible, resulting in the book *The Future of Biblical Archaeology* (2004) with the papers presented there. Kitchen has also brought together archaeological evidence from the last 150 years in his book *On Reliability of the Old Testament* (2003).

More recently at Tel es-Safi, biblical Gath, an ostracon was found that has the name “Goliath” on it dated to about 950 BC. This strikes directly at the claim



Randall Yunker.

3

that there was no Goliath and that the story of David and Goliath was a myth. Also in 2005, an abecedary was found at Tel Zayit which contains what is believed to be the earliest Hebrew alphabet and writing found. This find, along with other known alphabets, are evidence against Wellhausen's claim that Moses did not know how to write. Although 150 years after the debate began there are still many who would like to see Historical Criticism become the standard methodology to evaluate the Bible, there nevertheless remains significant archaeological evidence to illuminate both the Bible and the understanding of those who hold a higher view of Scripture. (Carrie Rhodes)



Global Moments

Øystein S. Labianca, of the Institute of Archaeology, along with Bert deVries (Calvin College), Thomas Levy (UCSD) and Bethany Walker (Grand Valley State University) have joined an international team of scholars in a study of Global Moments in the Levant. The team of 16 researchers, headed by Leif Manger, of the University of Bergen, has recently won a \$2.6 million grant from the Norwegian Research Council.

Global moments are developments that call for a significant adaptation leading to new forms of cooperation or conflict. Few places on earth can rival the Levant as a place to study this kind of



Øystein S. Labianca. activity. See www.globalmoments.org for more information. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



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RANDOM SURVEY

New Egyptian Statue:

Archaeologists from Johns Hopkins University have discovered a life-sized black granite statue of an Egyptian queen. The sculpture was unearthed during excavations at Karnak's Mut Temple. Inscriptions on the back of the statue list titles of king Amenhotep III, who ruled Egypt from 1390-1352 BC. The statue is probably a likeness of his wife, the powerful queen Tiye, who was also the mother of pharaoh Akhenaten. A cartouche on the monument indicates that it was reused around 1050 BC by queen Henuttaway.

Alexander at Baalbek?

The head of a statue dating back to the Roman period was recently discovered in an ancient well in the town of Eaat near Baalbek, Lebanon. It is 35 cm long and weighs over 18 kg and belongs either to Alexander the Great or Heliopolis, the Sun God.

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

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Ancient Typhoid Plague:

Thucydides, in his *History of the Peloponnesian War*, describes a plague that gripped the city of Athens, where as much as a third of the population succumbed, helping the Spartans to gain the upper hand in the nearly 30-year-long war between the city-states. In the 1990s a mass grave was discovered beneath the Kerameikos cemetery in Athens, dating to ca. 430 BC. Recently, scientists randomly picked teeth samples from the victims and isolated typhoid fever, a disease transmitted by contaminated food or water, as the culprit

Artemis Statue found in Larissa:

A headless statue depicting the goddess Artemis was recently unearthed at the Ancient Theater at Larissa, in Thessaly, Greece, during restoration works there. A short tunic is wrapped around the statue with an animals' skin on top, while the main body is richly decorated. The statue is 80 cm tall and the whole structure is estimated to have been 1.65cm to 1.70cm tall based on the body. It probably dates to the mid-1st century BC.

MB Gate at Beth-Shemesh:

A Middle Bronze IIB-C gate dating from the 17-16 centuries BC was recently found at Beth-Shemesh, Israel. It was built with cyclopean stones on the direct access plan, and consists of two rectangular flanking towers with three pairs of piers.

N E W S L E T T E R



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