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Spring 2007

The Institute of Archaeology & Siegfried H. Horn Museum Newsletter Volume 28.2

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NEWSLETTER

The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



Institute/Museum Update

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

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During the Autumn of 2006 a number of activities occupied the attention and kept the staff of the Institute/Museum busy. Constance E. Gane, the new curator of the Museum, and her staff of students and volunteers spent numerous hours preparing an updated temporary exhibit to be ready in time for the many visitors who would be coming to campus for Alumni weekend (Sept. 28-Oct. 1). Additional artifacts, photos and text now augment the main as well as the classroom chronological displays. At least 200 visitors came to the Museum during Alumni weekend, including a large group of Australian pastors and their spouses, some of whom took advantage of the opportunity to dress up in traditional Arab garb and have their pictures taken in the bedouin tent, also on display.

A couple of weeks later, in mid-October, work was begun by Ray Rios and the Riverside Construction Co., removing the old drive-through facility from the building's previous morphology as a bank. When the awning was torn down and the other drive-through mechanics removed, the front of the building was then repaired to harmonize with the existing decor. Plans for permanent signage are in the works and should be advertising our new location to the public in the near future.

During the same week, Mrs. Demetra Andreasen, wife of Niels-Erik Andreasen, the President of Andrews University, along with the help of several of the Institute/Museum staff, catered a luncheon for the St. Joseph, MI Antiquarian Society, which was served in the main display, within and in front of the bedouin tent, a feature at the Museum which has attracted a lot of attention.

Although not officially open, the Museum has since been receiving visitors on Saturday afternoons from 3:00-5:00 pm when classes are in session, and at other times by appointment. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Visitors at the Museum During Allumni Weekend.



Workmen Remove Awning from Front of the Museum.



Antiquarian Society Luncheon and Bedouin Tent.

Clark Lecture

Douglas Clark, instructor of archaeology at La Sierra University and codirector of the Madaba Plains Project — ‘Umayri, presented an illustrated lecture for the Horn Museum Lecture Series on October 23, 2006 entitled *Religious and Domestic Life at the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age Tall al-‘Umayri, Jordan*.

Tall al-‘Umayri is one of the three main sites being excavated by the Madaba Plains Project, including Talls Jalul and Hisban. The most recent (2006 season) at ‘Umayri was the 11th since its beginning in 1984, and there have been numerous interesting finds since then.

Representing domestic life at Tall al-‘Umayri is an Iron Age four-room house which has been partially reconstructed with modern beams and also depicted artistically by Rhonda Root of Andrews University. Inside the house, the badly burned bones of four humans have been found which will soon undergo DNA testing to help determine their relationship to one another. The house appears to have been destroyed in the same conflict in which the humans perished. Also found there are approximately 200 artifacts, largely related to food production and storage, as well a small number related to cloth production. There has been an attempt to reconstruct 50 (and possibly as

many as 75) 3-foot tall storage jars that have been found at the site. In a large garbage dump outside the house hundreds of bones were found, including those of a 4.5-foot long Nile perch, which give some indication of the extent of trade during this time. Other sources of potential trade are seen in the large number of bottle-stoppers that give an indication of wine production in this region.

The two-story four-room house would have been built of stone, wooden beams, reeds from the Jordan valley, lime plaster and mud brick. The gravity measurements of this building including the building stones, lime plaster, and mortar for bricks is about 450 tons. This attempt at reconstruction is possible because of the 100 other four-room houses found in this region by which comparisons can be made.

Representing religious life at Tall al-‘Umayri is an interesting cultic installation consisting of several standing stones along with figurines and libation utensils in a building which is currently being referred to as a temple/palace. One of the difficulties in defining this structure is that the sanctuary lies lower than the rest of the structures surrounding it. Typically, a sanctuary is the high place of the settlement. Kent Bramlett, a PhD student at University of Toronto, is working on this structure for his dissertation. In his research, by comparing Late Bronze Age temples, he has found that not only

are there architectural themes that remain consistent, but that irregularities are the rule rather than the exception.

Among the other finds at Tall al-‘Umayri over the years are the famous Baalis seal and about 110 other seals and seal impressions. Early Iron Age figures of body parts including an ear, lips, an eye, toes of a foot, and a shoulder have been found. This site has revealed a number of Hellenistic as well as a few Ptolemaic coins. During the 2006 season, over 400 objects were found which included a large number of jar handles with potters' marks on them. (Carrie Rhodes)



Douglas Clark.

Research

Although scholarly research might more naturally be seen as primarily within the domain of university faculty, at Andrews University students are also encouraged to participate. The stated goal of the Office of Scholarly Research at Andrews University is to “promote excellence in research and creative activity, and foster an attitude of scholarly inquiry within the community of faculty and students on the campus.” In fact, the University has a program of collaborative research in which selected students on both the undergraduate and graduate levels are chosen to participate with their faculty advisors on various research projects. This program not only promotes scholarly excellence on the part on both faculty and students, but the students receive monetary assistance for their part in the endeavor, which helps to offset their tuition.

In order to bolster and promote this program, the Office of Scholarly Research held a Celebration of Faculty/Student Research on November 28, 2006 featuring short presentations of collaborative research from six of the 87 faculty/student teams. Three of these presentations were

made by Institute of Archaeology staff and students including sections on: Our Future is in Ruins (Constance Gane, Elizabeth Brown and Christie Goulart); Collaborative Research on the Agency Role of Empire in the Spread of Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations (Øystein LaBianca, Andrew Gerard, Ehren Lichtenwalter and Darrell Rohl); and Faunal Analysis from Tall Jalul, Jordan (Katherine Koudele and Jessica Jaeger).

Fourteen of the faculty/student teams were developed on the basis of research generated at the Institute of Archaeology and sponsored by its faculty partners in the departments of Agriculture, Anthropology, Archaeology, Behavioral Sciences, Digital Media and Religion. These projects included: Ceramic Evidence for Assyrian Imperial Projects in Transjordan (Elizabeth Brown with Constance Gane and Øystein LaBianca); Ethnoarchaeological Foundations: Little Traditions in Transjordan (Jennifer Castillo with Øystein LaBianca); British Imperial Projects in Transjordan (Andrew Gerard with Øystein LaBianca and Gary Land); Ceramics from Tall Jalul (Christie Goulart with Constance Gane); Fauna Remains of Tall Jalul (Jessica Groeneweg with Randall Younker); Fauna Remains of Tall Jalul in Jordan (Jessica Jaeger with



Dr. Koudele talking about Jalul bones.

Katherine Koudele); Coins as a Window on Selucid Projects in Transjordan (Ryan Krueger with Øystein LaBianca and Keith Mattingly); Correlation Between Architectural Development and Foods System Intensification (Aren LaBianca with Øystein LaBianca); Parochialization of the Hellenistic Great Tradition in Transjordan (Ehren Lichtenwalter with Øystein LaBianca and John Markovic); Fauna Remains of Tall Jalul in Jordan (Edwina Rao with Randall Younker); Parochialization of the Roman Great Tradition in Transjordan (Darrell Rohl with Øystein LaBianca); Madaba Plains Project (Kathleen Schwartz with Øystein LaBianca and Sharon Prest); Crusaders’ Life in Palestine and Transjordan (Joshua Smith with Øystein LaBianca and Keith Mattingly) and Creation of Museum Exhibits (Charee Tardiff with Constance Gane).

This collaborative research program, which has been functioning now for several years, is seen to be a success by everyone involved. The motivation of having faculty mentors and the high energy of students make it a winning combination. The Office of Scholarly Research at Andrews University is staffed by Dr. John Stout, Dean of Research, and Michael Pearson. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Dr. LaBianca with Jennifer Castillo, Darrell Rohl and Andrew Gerard at celebration.



RANDOM SURVEY

Jerusalem Wealth:

A study examining the silver content of 1,200 ceramic vessels from Jerusalem and 37 other sites in Roman Judea has revealed higher amounts of silver (> 5.5 parts per million) in the Jerusalem vessels than those from all the other sites. The samples from the sites were otherwise indistinguishable. Researchers suggest that this is an indication of the wealth of the city during the period and correlates with the fact that the city and Temple were the religious and national focus leading to growth in population and wealth by its inhabitants.

Earthquake Preserves Site Near Paphos:

Excavations on Geronissos Island, near Paphos, Cyprus, have found remains of a religious banquet, perhaps a pilgrimage site of the Apollo cult. Under earthquake, rubble cooking and catering pottery were found along with metal objects, dating to the 1st century BC.

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

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Ancient Gold Coin Found:

Recent excavations in a mountain lake in Kyrgyzstan have revealed bronze daggers, sickles, hatchets, household implements and jewelry which are believed to date back to 1,000 BC. The most significant find was a 70-gram octagonal gold artifact that may be the earliest form of gold money found in Central Asia. Coinage is usually thought to have been developed by the Lydians, in western Turkey, sometime in the 7th century BC. If this find can be definitely be substantiated as a coin it would predate Lydian coinage by several centuries.

Mummy DNA and Disease:

In a study conducted in Munich, DNA bone samples were taken from 91 Egyptian and 70 ancient Nubian mummies to test for Leishmaniasis, a disease caused by parasites and transmitted by sand flies that causes painful skin sores and now kills 500,000 people a year. The worst of this disease was found during the Middle Kingdom when ties with Nubia were the strongest, but it virtually disappeared by the New Kingdom and the Late Periods.

Bath House Found in Rome:

A 2nd century AD two-story bath house has recently been found in Rome at the Villa delle Vignacce. It extends at least 5 acres and consists of well-preserved hot rooms, vaults, changing rooms and latrines.

N E W S L E T T E R



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