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Archaeological Museum

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The Institute of Archaeology & Siegfried H. Horn Museum Newsletter Volume 30.3

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NEWSLETTER

The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

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THE 2009 EXCAVATIONS AT JALUL

During the summer of 2009 Andrews University continued excavations at Tall Jalul and the Islamic Village. The excavations on the tell were directed by Randall Younker and Constance E. Gane, and those of the Islamic village by Reem S. al-Shqour.

Only three fields (C, D, and G) on the tell were worked this season. Excavations in Field C brought clarification to the nature of the Late Iron Age II/Persian-period walls that had been exposed in previous seasons. Two rectangular buildings were identified. The larger was located on the west side of the field and had at least three building phases. It was separated by a street from the Late Iron Age II/Persian period pillared house found in earlier seasons. The northwest corner of a second building was found in the southeast part of the field, the floor of which was paved with small stone cobbles. Its northern wall was robbed out already in antiquity.

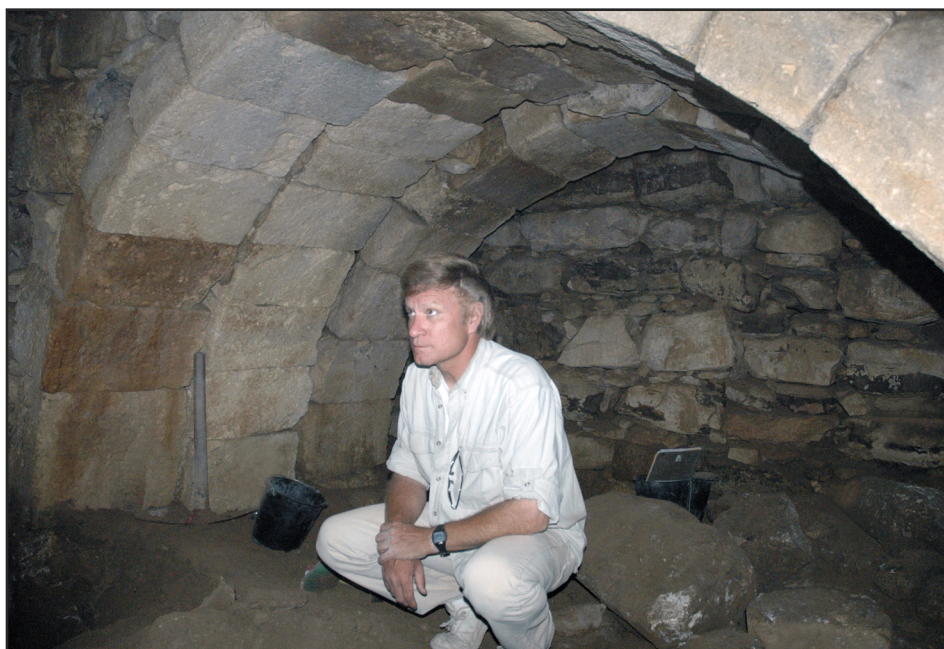
Excavations in Field D continued clearing the rooms of the Iron Age II/Persian-period building that was found in earlier seasons. In the process, a large amount of broken pottery was found, among which was a piece of imported Attic ware, typical of the Persian period. A number of objects were also found including a limestone cosmetic palette, beads, figurines, unbaked clay loom weights, a kernos fragment, a broken seal and a bulla.

Field G continued the exposure of the city wall first found in 2007. This season, it was traced for at least 20 meters. It runs in a NW-SE direction and dates to the 9th century BC. To the north of the wall, the southern two rooms of an Iron Age II (8-7th century BC) building were exposed, one of which contained a large amount of smashed pottery that dates to the 7th century BC. One of the most intriguing finds in Field G was a late Iron Age II/Persian period (6th-5th centuries BC)

(cont'd on p. 2)



Nadine Plummer Excavating Among Field G Walls.



Randall Younker in Vaulted Room.

water channel that runs from the reservoir located on the SE part of the tell. It cut across the earlier Iron Age II building and exited through the city wall. The water channel apparently drained overflow from the large reservoir to a number of smaller ones located outside the city to the east and southeast. It would therefore seem that Jalul had an abundant water supply during the Iron Age. A number of small objects were found, including arrowheads, bone tools, and figurines.

The goal of the excavations in the Jalul Islamic Village was to determine whether or not the large building complex located here was a khan. Work continued in the two rooms that were excavated on the SE side of the building in 2008. Bedrock was reached in both rooms and the ceramic evidence indicated that while there was activity in these rooms during the early Islamic period, they were later reconstructed during the Mamluk period (ca. 14th century). A basalt millstone for grinding flour was found on the floor in the northern room, part of which was a food preparation area. The southern part of this room was remodeled again during the Ottoman period. Finds, such as a grain silo and stone bins, suggest that this part of the room was used for grain storage and keeping animals at that time. To

the west of this room was a Mamluk-period courtyard consisting of a nari floor. During the 14th century a wall was constructed to the north that contained a niche. This area was abandoned from the 16-19th centuries after which Ottoman-period structures were built.

Further north, beyond the courtyard, a two-story Mamluk-period structure was partly uncovered this season. The upper floor exhibited at least two use phases, one with a oven. A large stone with a Christian cross, in secondary use, was part of the upper storey of the building. A stone-lined opening was found in the floor of the upper room that permitted grain to be dumped into the lower room, which was used for grain storage. The lower level consisted of an arched entrance that led into a lower room with corbelled arches. The room was probably initially constructed in the late Byzantine or early Umayyad period. It was expanded to the west during the early Mamluk period and further modified throughout the period. Another room on the same level as the upper storey of the two-storey building was found to the north. Its floor consisted of large flagstones. (Constance E. Gane and Randall W. Younker)



Chesnut Lecture

On Nov. 17, 2008 Owen Chesnut, a graduate research associate at the Institute of Archaeology, presented a lecture entitled *A Reassessment of the Excavations at Tall Safut* for the Horn Museum lecture series. As a Ph.D. student at Andrews University Chesnut's dissertation involves processing the excavation materials of Safut for publication and this lecture represents his preliminary findings.

Tall Safut is located on the southern end of the Baq'ah Valley, 12 km north of Amman, Jordan. While the name of the site is equivalent to the Hebrew word for judge (*Šopet*), reflecting a position of prominence over the valley, it is usually equated with biblical Nobah (Judg 8:11). Selah Merrill was the first explorer to visit the site, and Nelson Glueck the first to survey it, finding ceramics from the Late Bronze and Iron Ages.

Later, in the 1950s, a road was cut through the eastern edge of the site revealing what was thought to be a Middle Bronze Age glaçis fortification. However, it wasn't until the early 1980s when a proposal was made to widen the road, which would make further inroads onto the tell, that a salvage excavation was begun by Donald Wimmer in an attempt to preserve the site. After finding enough material in Areas A-D, in 1982, to warrant its preservation, Wimmer continued excavations for nine more seasons.

While it was ultimately determined that the earlier-proposed glaçis was actually natural bedrock that was cut in antiq-



Owen Chesnut.

uity in order to build a wall on the edge of the tell, the Middle Bronze Age pottery that was found here, and only here on the site, still makes Safut significant due to the fact that few settlements of this period have been found in central and southern Jordan. Late Bronze Age II remains at Safut include fragments of a perimeter wall around the site and ceramics, including imported wares (White Slip II) from Cyprus, indicating trade with the region during this time. Inside the wall, underneath mudbrick destruction debris, a tower and a cultic niche were found as well as several chalices, a bowl, burnt barley and a bronze deity reminiscent of Syro-Lebanese Baal or El figurines found at Hazor and Megiddo.

The perimeter wall continued in use throughout Iron Age I. Inside the wall, as at other sites in the region on both sides of the Jordan River, were storage areas where large jars, or pithoi, including those of the collar-rim type, were found. Although the ethnic group that inhabited the site at this time is unknown, based on material cultural comparisons with sites such as Hesban, Umayri and other sites in the immediate region, they may have been Reubenite. Although not an excavated find, a local resident at some point dug up a clay figurine from the site in the form of a monkey carrying a lamb, which, based on a parallel from Tell Keisan, appears to be from this period.

The Iron Age IIC/Persian period (7th-5th centuries BC) was the main period of occupation at the site. It was fortified over a much larger area than in previous periods, also exhibiting major extramural remains. Within the casemate city wall, in Areas B and C, there was a large building complex with a street between the structures. The complex went through six phases (3 building phases each followed by a destruction phase). Figurines, painted Ammonite pottery and a late Babylonian seal were found among the debris dating to this period. Later remains, mostly off the tell, include material culture from the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman periods. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Ziese Lecture

Dr. Mark Ziese, professor of OT at Cincinnati Christian College, gave a public lecture entitled *The Tragedies of Tell Taanek* on Feb. 2, 2009. In the lecture he introduced Tell Taanek, described some of its material culture, and showed how the excavations can be considered a tragedy.

Edward Robinson identified the site of Tell Taanek, which is located on the edge of the Jezreel Valley, but didn't understand its extent or significance. It was chosen for occupation due to its access to subsistence, communication, and defense, being 11 acres in size and rising 50 m above the surrounding plain.

Three teams conducted excavations at the site. Ernst Sellin of the University of Vienna was the first to excavate, from 1901-03. A conservative Protestant scholar, he was interested in connecting sites to the biblical account. He dug at Taanek for 3 seasons, and published reports quickly. He distinguished 4 periods of occupation and found numerous artifacts including cuneiform tablets. However, his work has limited stratigraphic value.

The second team to excavate at Taanek was led by Paul Lapp. The first season took place in 1963, a politically difficult time. Lapp was confined to the SW corner of the tell because the northern section overlooked the Greenline separating Israeli from Arab forces. Foxholes, trenches, and gunneries were located at the northern end. Four fields were excavated in the southern section and another as far north as they could go, to tie things together with the work of Sellin. One of the main discoveries were massive fortifications from the Early Bronze Age II-III with later additions in the Middle Bronze Age IIC. They also found a 10th century BC cult stand, with numerous mythical creatures. Despite some shortcomings, Lapp's excavations did a remarkable job of distinguishing the different layers of occupation (6 levels dating to the Early Bronze Age I-III, MB IIC-LB I, Iron Age I-IIA, Persian period, Late Abasid, and Ottoman). Following the 6-Day War in



Mark Ziese.

1967, there was one last season (1968), the largest and most successful, despite disagreements with the Israelis. Lapp then left the Albright Institute in Jerusalem, became a teacher at Bir Zeit University in Palestine, and soon after drowned off the coast of Cyprus.

Al Glock then became the director of the site, but many of the excavators at Taanek started to work in Jordan. Glock stayed behind in Palestine to work on the final publications and focused on the process of making pottery in an effort to better understand the Iron Age ceramics from Taanek. Glock was director of the Albright Institute for a short time, but quickly became impatient with the political posturing necessary for such a position. He became more interested in the concept of social justice and ethnography and began teaching in the archaeology department at Bir Zeit University. While there he succeeded in directing a new Palestinian dig at Taanek. The focus changed to an ethnographic study of the local village and archaeological work in the Ottoman village. These studies were never published because Glock was shot and killed by an unknown assassin. The assailant was wearing a Palestinian kafeiyeh but got into a car with an Israeli license plate, and there was no formal investigation into his death. This was the final tragedy of Tell Taanek. There is still much work to be done at the site. Perhaps at some point in the future it can again be excavated. (Owen Chesnut)



RANDOM SURVEY

Ship "Graveyard" Found:

Archaeologists using sonar technology to scan the seabed have discovered five ancient Roman shipwrecks in pristine condition off the coast of Ventotene, Italy. The trading vessels, dating from the first century BC to the fifth century AD, lie more than 100 m underwater and are among the deepest wrecks discovered in the Mediterranean in recent years. The vessels were transporting wine from Italy, fish sauce from Spain and North Africa, and metal ingots from Italy, possibly for use in the construction of statues or weaponry.

Menachem Jar Handle Found:

An 8th-7th century BC jar handle with the Hebrew name Menachem (מנחם) engraved on it has recently been found in excavations in Jerusalem. The name appears in the Bible and the corpus of Hebrew or Phoenician names and seals found in Israel, Assyria, Cyprus and Egypt.

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Residential Persepolis Located?

Archeologists have found the walls of a building complex and an artisan area at Persepolis, one of the five capitals of the Achaemenid Empire in ancient Persia. Construction of the city began in 520 BC under Darius I and it lasted almost 70 years. The excavations were on the flat area at the foot of the Great Achaemenid Terrace and may represent a residential area corresponding to the city of Mattezish, mentioned in the Elamite tablets in Persepolis. During the Achaemenid period (6th-4th centuries BC), all the people working for the Imperial Court lived there.

Ancient High Place Found:

Possibly the oldest man-made place of worship has recently been discovered at Göbekli Tepe, in Turkey. The site dates to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B period and consists of a series of megaliths within circles ranging from 9.1 to 30 m in diameter and surrounded by rectangular stone walls about 1.8 m high. Many of the pillars and freestanding sculptures are carved with elaborate animal figure reliefs and there is at least one human statue.

Sacred Lake Unearthed:

Archaeologists have found the site of a sacred lake in a temple to the Egyptian goddess Mut among the ruins of San al-Hagar, ancient Tanis, in the eastern Nile Delta, Egypt. The lake was built out of limestone blocks and measured 15 m long by 12 m wide.

NEWSLETTER



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