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Fall 2013

The Institute of Archaeology & Siegfried H. Horn Museum Newsletter Volume 34.4

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The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



Jordan Conference in Berlin

The Twelfth International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan was held from May 5-11, 2013. The conference continues to be under the patronage of HRH Prince Al-Hassan Bin Talal, who initiated this triennial conference back in 1980. Venues this time included Humboldt University, Grimm-Zentrum and the Pergamon Museum, Berlin, Germany.

The theme of the conference was Transparent Borders. There were 176 papers presented by researchers from Jordan and various other countries, most of whom have archaeological projects in Jordan. The organizing institutions include the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology (GPIA); Humboldt University, Berlin; Free University, Berlin; Technical University, Berlin; TOPOI, Cluster of Excellence, Berlin; German Archaeological Institute, Berlin; and the Staatliche Museen Preussischer Kulturbesitz. The ceremonial opening of the conference was held at the Pergamon Museum, and the opening session, on the following day, was a keynote address by HRH Prince Al-Hassan, Bin Talal.

Papers presented by current or former staff of the Madaba Plains Project and its predecessor the Andrews University Heshbon Expedition include: Robin Brown (Palatial Architecture in Medieval Jordan: Reflections of Royal Traditions and Local Economy); Elena Maria Ronza (The Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management Initiative (TWLCRM): A Holistic Model for Preserving, Presenting, and Protecting the World Heritage Site of Petra); Bert de Vries (Multi-faceted Approach to Conservation at Umm el-Jimal); Gary Rollefson (The Late Neolithic Colonization of the Eastern Badia of Jordan); Chang-Ho Ji (A Tale of Two ‘Ataruz Excavations, Surveys, and History of Khirbat ‘Ataruz and Rujum ‘Ataruz in Central Jordan); David Graf (Theodorus of Gadara); Larry Herr (The Tall al-‘Umayri Data Management System:

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

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The Pergamon Museum, Berlin.

From the Field to On-Line); Øystein S. LaBianca (East Jordan Global History: The View from Hisban and the Madaba Plains); Thomas S. Parker (The 2012 Season of the Petra North Ridge Project: Domestic Structures and the City Wall); Raouf Abujaber (The Trans-Jordanian Palestinian Encounter); Monique Vincent (Households, Communities, and Dimensions of Social Identity in the Early Iron Age at Tall al-ʿUmayri); Douglas Clark and Kent Bramlett (Three Seasons of Stratigraphic and Technological Advance: MPP-ʿUmayri 2010-2012) and Friedbert Ninow (Bringing Khirbat al-Balua on the Map).

A boat trip around the city to view historical and architecturally-important buildings of Germany's capital was a highlighted event, as was the evening reception at the Humboldt University campus. The conference papers as usual will be published in the *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan* series, as volume 12. (Paul J. Ray, Jr)



Students at Gezer

The Andrews University excavation at Tall Jalul, Jordan, is currently on a temporary hiatus in order to write final excavation and specialist reports on the results of the first phase of excavation at the site. Nevertheless, graduate students in the Archaeology program at Andrews University are still required to do field work as part of their studies. In order to fulfill this need, a number of Andrews University students participated this summer in excavations at Tel Gezer, Israel and Kurion, Cyprus, both sponsored by the Tandy Institute of Archaeology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, of which at least one of its directors is also a research associate of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University. The following is a short report of one of these excavations.

The ancient city of Gezer is located in the Northern Shephelah, in the Aijal

Valley between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. It is situated on the ancient Via Maris, or Way of the Sea Highway, which connected Egypt with Syria, Anatolia, and Mesopotamia, at the crossroads of the east-west trade route to Transjordan and the Kings Highway, which connected Arabia and Mesopotamia. The city is mentioned in the biblical books of Joshua, Judges, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings and 1 Chronicles. According to 1 Kings 9:15-17, it was captured from the Canaanites by an Egyptian pharaoh (possibly Siamun) and given to his daughter as her dowry when she married king Solomon, who then rebuilt and fortified the city.

Tel Gezer has been excavated over the past century by several notable archaeologists including R.A.S. Macalister, William Dever (with several professors from Andrews University including Randall Younker, Paul Ray, and Stefanie Elkins), and Joe Seger. This summer students and faculty from Andrews University joined the Tel Gezer team, now in its sixth season of Phase III led by codirectors Dr. Steven Ortiz of the Tandy Institute for Archaeology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Dr. Samuel Wolff of the Israel Antiquities Authority. The excavations ran from June 13-July 14, 2013 and involved a consortium of schools with some 70-80 individuals participating. Andrews University was the Associate Sponsor of the excavation. Archaeology graduate students who joined the dig from Andrews University included PhD student Scottie Baker, Jr.; and MA students Jacob Moody, Christine Chitwood and Heather Merizan. Faculty included Constance Gane (Assistant Professor of Archaeology and Old Testament), who served as a staff archaeologist, and Roy Gane (Professor of Hebrew Bible Literature and Languages), who served as the epigrapher. Jacob Moody and Scottie Baker were square supervisors and Christine Chitwood was an assistant square supervisor, all in Field E. Heather Merizan excavated in Field W where some of the most exciting finds of the season were made.

Most of the previously excavated remains at Gezer date from the 10th to the 8th centuries BC including the famous six-chambered Solomonic Gate. The emphasis for this season's excavation was articulating and clarifying Iron Age levels. While excavating an Iron Age IIA (10th century BC) wall, part of an unexpected Iron Age I (1200-1000 BC) building was discovered. Its rooms were filled with debris from a massive destruction nearly a meter thick, containing Canaanite store jars and Philistine pottery. In addition, another occupation layer of the Late Bronze Age, that had also been destroyed by fire, was uncovered beneath Iron Age walls. Several cylinder seals, beads, an Egyptian scarab with a cartouche, and pottery vessels were found in this layer. Scottie Baker was able to decipher the cartouche and identified it as belonging to Amenhotep III, the father of Akenaton and grandfather of Tutankhamun (King Tut). As known from the Late Bronze Age Tell el-Amarna correspondence, the city of Gezer, as well as other cities in the region, were under the control of the 18th Dynasty of Egypt. The discovery of the cartouche is particularly significant because it strengthens the connection between the Canaanites of Gezer and Egypt during the 14th century BC. It is not yet clear who was responsible for the burning of Late Bronze Age Gezer. Because of its strategic location, Gezer was politically important and its military role dictated its occupation by the dominant reigning power, whether it be Canaanite, Israelite, Egyptian, or Assyrian. Gezer maintained its importance into the Hellenistic period.

The dig week went from Monday through Thursday with weekends free for camp work for staff and tours for students and volunteers. Lectures by specialists were given almost every evening throughout the week. Speakers included Aren Meier (Bar Ilan University) on "Tel Gath and the Philistines," Aaron Burke (UCLA) on "The Jaffa Cultural Heritage Project," and Yossi Garfinkel (Hebrew University) on "Khirbet Qeiyafa." These lectures provided a rich learning experience.

One of Constance Gane’s responsibilities was to be faculty sponsor to the 40 participants on the weekend tours. The first tour focused on Jerusalem, including the Israel Museum, some newly-excavated remains uncovered in the City of David, and the Herodium. The second weekend was spent in the south and included the Negev sites of Beersheva and Arad, the Judean Wilderness sites of Masada, ‘En Gedi, the Dead Sea, and Qumran. During the final weekend, the group visited Caesarea, Megiddo, the Sea of Galilee, Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Tel Dan, and Caesarea Philippi. Also included was a chance to see the “Sea of Galilee boat” and a place to overlook the Syrian border. (Constance E. Gane)



Scottie Baker, Christine Chitwood, Connie Gane, Heather Merizan and Jacob Moody.



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RANDOM SURVEY

Discoveries in Jerusalem:

When the 1927 earthquake damaged the Al-Aqsa Mosque, British Mandate archaeologist Robert Hamilton received permission from the Moslem authorities to investigate. Recently, documentation of his discoveries has been found. Beneath the damage, he found a *mikveh* (a ritual immersion pool) from the Second Temple period, which would have been used by worshipers before entering the Temple. He also found the remains of a Byzantine-period mosaic, indicating that this area was probably used as a church.

Roman Military Camp Found:

A military camp built ca. 50 BC, during the Gallic War of Julius Caesar, has recently been identified near Hermeskeil, Germany. The fortress is a rectangular earthwork enclosure with rounded corners, with space enough for several thousands of legionary and mounted auxiliary soldiers.

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New Inscription Found in Egypt:

A section of a New Kingdom (late 18th or early 19th Dynasty) stele listing offerings of bread, cattle, geese, fruit, vegetables, and lotus flowers, with illustrations in *bas relief*, offered to various ancient Egyptian gods, has recently been discovered at Matariya, in northern Cairo. Other finds from the site include a Middle Kingdom (12th Dynasty) obelisk of Sesostri I, columns from the time of Ramses II (19th Dynasty), a number of tombs from Dynastic and Ptolemaic-period times, as well as the remains of an ancient school.

Gold Coin Found:

A first-century AD gold coin of the Emperor Caligula, known for brutal and fierce policies during his reign, was recently found underwater between Limassol and Larnaca, Cyprus. It depicts the emperor sacrificing an animal before the ionic hexastyle Temple of Divus Augustus, in Rome. While significant in itself, the coin may also eventually tell scholars something about trade patterns with the island of Cyprus during the early Roman period.

Discoveries in Bronze Age Syria:

Using technologically-advanced instruments, archaeologists have found that obsidian tools discovered at Tell Mozan, during the Dynasty of Akkad (late 3rd millennium BC), originated in eastern Turkey, suggesting new models for the origin of trade routes.

N E W S L E T T E R



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