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Winter 2002

### Institute of Archaeology & Horn Archaeological Museum Newsletter Volume 23.1

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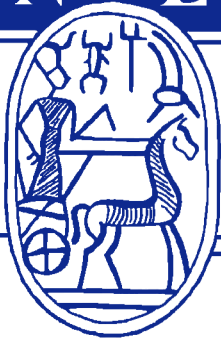
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## INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY  
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MUSEUM  
NEWSLETTER

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## 2001 ANNUAL MEETING

Over 400 people attended the *ASOR* Annual Meeting in Boulder, Colorado from November 14-17, 2001. Four concurrent sessions ran during each time slot with more than 200 presentations. There were over 30 thirty publishers selling books in lobby between the meeting rooms. The concurrent Annual meeting of the *Near East Archaeological Society* was held in Colorado Springs while the subsequent *Society of Biblical Literature* meetings were held in Denver.

The Ever popular Symposia on Recent Research in the Madaba Plains Region of Jordan again had two sessions, the first session on Reports on Field and Related Research chaired by Tim Harrison included papers by Chris Foley (Paleolithic, Epipaleolithic and Neolithic Sites in the Wadi ath-Thamad Basin); Steve Savage (The Moab Archaeological Resource Project Survey: 2000-2001 Field Seasons); Tim Harrison (The Tell Madaba Archaeological Project, 2000 and 2001 Field Seasons); Randall Younker and David Merling (Five Seasons at Tall Jalul, Jordan); and Øystein LaBianca and Bethany Walker (Renewed Research in Islamic Hisban). Larry Herr chaired a second session which was a general discussion on recent research in the Madaba Plains Project Region.

Presentations by other MPP members included Bethany Walker (Ceramic Evidence for Lusignan-Mamluk Relations); Rhonda Root (Artist's Report on Madaba Plains Project — 'Umayri 2000 Season in Jordan); Øystein LaBianca (Introduction to Connectivity in Antiquity: Parts I and II); Paul Ray (Connectivity: Transjordan During the Persian Period); Roy Gane (Exorcism and Judgment at the Babylonian New Year Festival); Ted Burgh (Who's the Man? A Discussion of Sex/Gender in Iron Age Music Culture); Chang-Ho Ji (The Settlement Pattern and History in the

(continued on p. 2)



Randall Younker and Øystein LaBianca presenting at ASOR.

Dhiban Plateau); and Gloria London (Women Potters of Cyprus). In addition, MPP members who chaired sessions included Rhonda Root (Posters and Applied Technologies); Øystein LaBianca (Connectivity in Antiquity: Globalization as Long Term Historical Process, Sessions I and II); Douglas Clark (Special Session: Can a History of Ancient Israel Be Written?); Gloria London (Pottery Analysis and Interpretation); Connie Gane (Archaeology of Mesopotamia); David Merling (Individual Submissions I); Carolyn Rivers (Outreach Education); Jim Fisher (Individual Submissions II); and Gary Christopherson (Geographic Information Systems and Archaeology). Finally Bethany Walker was a respondent for one the Connectivity in Antiquity sessions).

Publication awards were presented to Michel Fortin and Baruch Halpern and Service awards to William Dever, Nancy Serwint, John Spencer, Patricia Bikai, Nancy Frederick and Jodi Magness. Madaba Plains Project Director Lawrence T. Geraty was elected ASOR President. Other MPP members who were elected to ASOR positions included Larry G. Herr, who was also elected the Chair of the Committee on Publications, Michael

Hasel to the Agenda Committee and Øystein LaBianca, who was re-elected to the Board of Trustees.

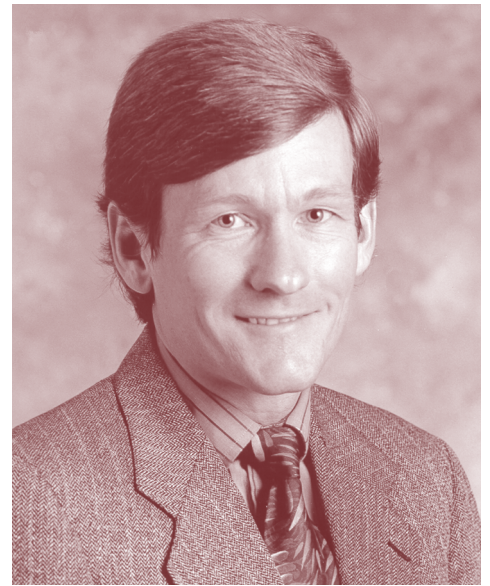
In terms of the Near East Archaeological Society, David Merling was elected President and Paul Ray was appointed as editor of the society's journal, the *Near East Archaeological Society Bulletin*. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



## Gane Lectures on Sennacherib Prism

Roy Gane, associate professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Languages at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, presented a lecture for the Horn Archaeological Lectureship Series on December 3, 2001. Gane served as the epigrapher for the University of California at Berkeley Archaeological Expedition at Nineveh directed by Dr. David Stronach in 1989. His lecture was entitled *Reconstructing a Sennacherib Prism Recently Found at Nineveh, Iraq*.

In the 8th century B.C., Sennacherib succeeded his father Sargon II as king of Assyria. Upon his ascension Sennacherib



Roy Gane

embarked upon a series of military campaigns in order to secure his borders and deal with rebellious vassal states. In his third campaign, Sennacherib came to Palestine. Hezekiah, the king of Judah, had allied himself with other kingdoms in Palestine, rebelled against Assyria and imprisoned Padi the king of Ekron. In addition, Hezekiah made an alliance with the kings of Egypt and Nubia to fight against Assyria. Sennacherib crushed the rebellious vassals of Palestine, destroyed the combined armies of Egypt and Nubia and shut Hezekiah up "like a bird in a cage" in Jerusalem.

Sennacherib had these campaigns written in cuneiform on six-sided clay prisms. Several prisms have been found and are now in museum collections. When archaeologists discovered them, they found that some prisms like the "Taylor Prism" and the Oriental Institute Prism had as many as eight campaigns recorded while others only contained three.

In the 1988 season, the University of California at Berkeley excavations at Nineveh discovered a reddish colored prism fragment (NIN/89/10) near a kiln. Pierre Bikai found the fragment and believes that the clay object with a hollowed center may have been manufactured there and broken during firing. "The irregularity of a concave surface repre-



William Dever and Efrain Velaquez at the ASOR meetings

senting part of an originally internal cylindrical hollow would support the idea that something may have gone wrong during the manufacture of the prism.”

Dr. Gane found the fragment that had been deposited at the Iraq Museum in Bagdad when he was working as the epigrapher for the 1989 season. A close examination of the angles of the prism made it possible for him to discern the original shape and a comparison with other similar prism determined its length.

In its original form, the Berkeley prism was 3.8 in (9.5 cm) x 1.6 in (4 cm). A portion of three of the original six sides with 3-12 lines was preserved. Two of the three faces were inscribed with cuneiform writing. Gane’s translation of the text

shows that this prism fragment was a portion of the introduction to the Annals of Sennacherib.

Face 1 had three characters. It is similar to lines 11-12 of a hexagonal prism fragment made of baked clay currently in the British Museum (BU 89-4-24, 170) and lines 4-5 of the Oriental Institute Prism. Face one of the Berkeley Prism reads:

...guardian of the right,  
lover of  
justice;

Face 2 was blank but face 3 had twelve lines of text which corresponds to lines 7-11 of the Oriental Institute Prism and lines 3-4 of BM 113203 in the British Museum. It reads:

...m]igh[ty]...  
fi[rst among]  
all ki[ngs,]  
the power[ful one]  
consum[ing]  
the insub[missive,]  
who strikes wi[th the thunderbolt]  
the wick[ed;]  
the god Assur,  
the gr[eat] mountain,  
an king[ship]  
unr[ivaled]  
has en[trusted to me....]

According to Dr. Gane, the Berkeley prism is most likely a late edition of the Annals of Sennacherib and may be dated to ca. 689 B.C. (Robert D. Bates)



## Hesban 6

The Archaeological Publications Department at the Institute of Archaeology of Andrews University is pleased to announce the publication of volume six of the Hesban Final Publication Series entitled *Tell Hesban and Vicinity in the Iron Age* by Paul J. Ray, Jr. This is the eighth volume published in the Hesban Series.

This volume presents a layer-by-layer account of the discoveries from the six Iron Age strata (12th through 5th centuries B.C.) at Tell Hesban, Jordan, with regional survey data from its immediate vicinity. Discoveries are interpreted in light of cultural, ethnological, and natural science data as well as historical events. Implications of these finds for an understanding of the history of the biblical tribe of Reuben, and the tribal kingdoms of Ammon and Moab are also examined. It includes a summary of the site and the surrounding region during the Late Bronze Age and Hellenistic periods as well as a chapter on the history of the excavation methodology of the Heshbon Expedition. There are numerous plans, photographs and pottery plates. The ceramic discussion compares the pottery of Tell Hesban with similar Iron Age forms found elsewhere in the Levant. The volume includes appendices of all loci, objects and faunal remains found in the Iron Age strata. An index is provided. Illustrations include 68 figures, 37 plates, and 7 tables.

**Tell Hesban and Vicinity in the Iron Age** by Paul J. Ray, Jr.

xv + 270pp  
2001

cloth: 8.5x 11”

\$45.99

ISBN 0-934872-19-7.

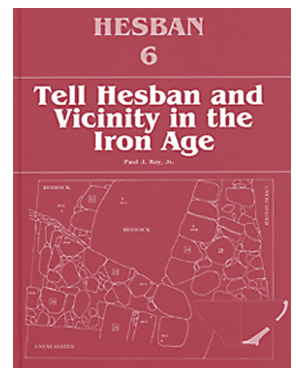
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Additional volumes of the Hesban Final Publication Series can also be purchased for \$45.99

# RANDOM SURVEY

## *Jalul 2002 Cancelled*

The current crisis in the Middle East is having a far reaching effect on Archaeology in the region. The 2002 excavations at Tall Jalul, under the direction of Randall Younker and David Merling, have been cancelled. The Andrews University Institute of Archaeology decided that in light of the "current situation it would not be prudent to return to the field in this crisis." Though Jordan is a peaceful country, some have expressed concern about their safety. For this reason excavations are tentatively rescheduled for May-June of 2003.

## *A New Pompeii Discovered*

One of the best preserved Bronze Age villages has recently been discovered at Nola a few miles from Vesuvius. A major eruption around 1800 B.C. buried this new "Pompeii" leaving the town in a remarkable state of preservation. The falling ash and volcanic mud hardened to create a reverse mold of the village much like those found at Pompeii. Many artifacts have been preserved *in situ*.

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## *The Monster of Troy*

Sea monsters, dragons and other mythical beasts appear on many examples of ancient Greek art. Archaeologists have been trying to determine whether these artistic depictions have any connection to an actual beast. The oldest example of the legend of the "Monster of Troy" is found on a Grecian urn. Adrienne Mayor now believes that the grotesque monster on the vase is modelled after the skull of a now extinct giraffe.

## *Migdol Temple found at Pella*

In a remote corner of Jordan a Migdol temple was found at Pella. This temple was in continuous use from 1650 to 850 B.C. and consisted of four stories. At first it looked like a series of fortified walls 29x22 meters until Archaeologists from the University of Sydney realized that it was the largest Bronze/Iron Age temples ever found. Hundreds of artifacts have been discovered from each period of occupation. These finds trace the history of the temple and the different gods who were worshipped there.

## *What do Archaeologists do when they retire?*

Elmo Scoggin, retired archaeologist who excavated at Gezer, Lachish, Arad and Dan, has found a new career in radio. Every evening he hosts "Music in the Night," for WCPE in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

# N E W S L E T T E R



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