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Archaeological Museum

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The Institute of Archaeology & Siegfried H. Horn Museum Newsletter Volume 42.4

Paul J. Ray Jr.

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The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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NEWSLETTER

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End of an Era

The end of an era in the archaeology of Jordan was recently reached with the deaths in quick succession of Bert de Vries (3/28/2021), Tom Parker (9/12/2021) and Martha Sharp Joukowsky (1/7/2022), two of whom were members of the Andrews University Heshbon Expedition.

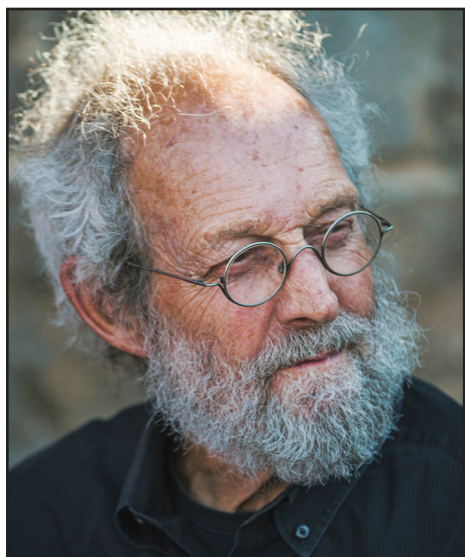
Bert de Vries was born on March 4, 1939 in Zierikzee, Zeeland in the Netherlands. His family was taken in by a farmer in Lopik, in the Netherlands during WWII and they later emigrated to Chatham, Ontario, Canada, in 1952. Bert shared stories about his childhood and his first-hand knowledge that being a refugee and an immigrant was not easy. He overcame the challenges by standing up against discrimination, and through a mean corner kick as a member of his soccer team. He took the game of soccer with him to Calvin College where he graduated with degrees in Physics and Engineering, followed by a Bachelor's degree in Divinity from Calvin Seminary. He received his PhD from Brandeis University in Mediterranean Studies, after which he began teaching history and archaeology at Calvin College.

Bert first travelled to Jordan in 1968 to serve as an architect surveyor at Tell Hisban. And because Jordan has a way of captivating those who visit, Bert and his wife Sally were never away from Jordan long, even carting their four small children along with them when they created a Christian Reformed World Relief Committee program to support Palestinian refugees from 1972-74, while working on excavations in between. They again lived in Jordan when Bert was the Director of the American Center of Research from 1988-1991, leaving during the first Gulf War.

(cont'd on p. 2)



Heshbon 1976 Season (Tom Parker, first row far left; Bert de Vries, second row far right).



Bert de Vries.

In addition to his devotion to budding scholars, his children, grandchildren and Sally, Bert loved Umm al-Jimal, Jordan and the wonderfully hospitable community that became a second home. Bert was affectionally known as Abu Boutros there. He spent many years excavating and documenting the 2000-year-old site. For the last fifteen years he fostered what he called “Community Archaeology.” As the modern town grew around the ancient site, he engaged local community members in the preservation and presentation of the site, especially in the face of conflict and destruction across the border, in Syria. He worked with local Jordanians and Syrians to help support refugees and their host community. To Bert, cultural heritage and the humanities were tools for peace, understanding and compassion, and he put them to work effectively in modeling non-violence on campus, in the classroom, and in Umm al-Jimal. He built a local and international community of experts who strive to walk in his footsteps and to carry on his legacy.

Bert’s mission in life was peace through common understanding. That mission colored everything he did from his devotion to his wife Sally and his children and grandchildren, to the creativity of his teaching and love of his students, to his various peace-building endeavors, and even to the plants in his garden. He did

everything with deep integrity and fierce conviction. If someone asked you to draw an archeologist or a professor, you would draw Bert.

Bert taught at Calvin University from 1967-2018 and also spent fifty years doing research and excavating in Jordan. During that time, he became a mentor to countless young academics, each of whom would attest to his equal commitment to rigor and joy in the work.

Øystein LaBianca fondly remembers Bert by noting: “we are all the richer for having known him. In my case, that would be 50 years—since the second season of the Heshbon Expedition in 1971. I was a mere first year graduate student; he was a part of the senior staff—the team’s architect. His beautiful renderings of the Byzantine church and the Mamluk bath on the summit of the tell set the bar for excellence on the entire project. His drawings added interest and excitement to the scatter of stones and standing ruins that met the visitor at the site’s summit. In this way he opened for community engagement—long before there was community archaeology. To his renderings of artifacts from the past, Sally would add an eye for artefacts of the present—and together, they crystallized a vision of engaging with their local Jordanian hosts that broke with the prevailing expeditionary archaeology model. How fortunate that their work and vision has been centered on the cultural heritage of Jordan. Though our loss is immense, the de Vries legacy is secure and well launched, and signals the way forward for the archaeology of Jordan.”

Samuel Thomas Parker III was born July 9, 1950, in Memphis TN. Tom found a passion and love of history early in life. As a young boy he loved reading “The All About” books, a non-fiction series published in the 1950s. One of his favorites in the series was titled “All About Archaeology,” a hint of things to come.

Tom’s academic career included high school graduation in Deerfield IL, history and religion studies at Trinity University, in San Antonio TX, and the completion of

his PhD in ancient history at the University of California in Los Angeles. At Trinity University Tom had benefited from the small class sizes and the excellent professors who engaged the students and challenged them to develop as critical thinkers. He saw first-hand the difference a good professor could make, another hint of things to come. At the time of his death Tom was a tenured, full professor at North Carolina State University where he had been influencing students since 1980, when he started his career. Tom loved teaching and actively engaged with all his students, both those interested in future scholarship and those not pursuing a future in academics.

Tom’s interest in archaeology began in 1971 when he volunteered on a dig at Tell el-Hesi in Israel. This was one of the first digs to systematically use stratigraphy and seriation to produce a chronology of a site and to show the importance of pottery as a chronological indicator. This is fitting because Tom chose to specialize in pottery. Later, as director of his own digs, he loved to see the pottery come out of the ground. In 1976 he began his career in Jordanian archaeology, at Tell Hisban. Later, at his own digs in Jordan, at both Aqaba and ancient Petra, Tom trained, encouraged and inspired hundreds of stu-



Tom Parker.

dents as they worked alongside him. Tom conducted his digs using best practices and, throughout his 40 plus year career, he introduced the latest methods and technology, keeping pace as the field changed.

Tom's life was characterized by kindness, good humor, humility and a commitment to do the very best he could in both his personal and professional life. Tom was fully present in every situation, bringing loving care and laughter to interactions with his family, friends, students and colleagues. Tom could tell a good story and was a great listener. His love of life was evident in his full participation in his daughter Grace's "growing up" years, and his pleasure in deeply sharing life's adventures with Mary, his wife of 31 years. Tom loved dogs, time enjoying nature and travel explorations. Good times with friends and extended family were important to him. He lived a simple, unassuming life and felt blessed by abundance.

Throughout his career Tom supported and benefited from the *American Center of Research (ACOR)*, an international, non-profit academic institution "which advances understanding of Jordan and the Middle East, past and present." He was a member of ACOR's Board of Trustees from 1987 to present. Tom was fair, friendly and respectful of local customs and traditions and was well regarded within the local community in Jordan. Larry Geraty said of Tom: "He has been at the forefront of Jordanian archaeology and has touched the lives of us all."

Marta Sharp Joukowsky was born in Montague, MA in 1936, and grew up in a Unitarian family with a keen sense of social justice that led her parents to become heavily involved in humanitarian relief efforts in World War II Europe. Martha was educated at Brown University's Pembroke College, where she met and married Artemis Joukowsky in 1956, and received her BA in 1958. The young family moved to Italy, in 1960, and subsequently lived in Lebanon (1961-72), and Hong Kong before returning to the US, in 1974. During their years



Martha and Artemis Joukowsky.

in Beirut, Martha and Artemis not only traveled extensively through the Levant, but Martha also engaged intensively with the deep past of the Middle East, earning her MA in Archaeology from the American University of Beirut in 1972. She received her PhD from the Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne University in 1982, with a dissertation on the prehistory of western Anatolia.

In 1982 Martha was appointed to the faculty at Brown University as Professor of Old World Archaeology and Art, and of Anthropology, and remained there until she retired in 2002. During those years, she conducted fieldwork in Turkey, Italy, and Greece and, especially, Jordan, where she discovered and excavated the Great Temple at Petra, a colonnaded complex built by the Nabataeans. It was her 15 years of excavation on the Petra project that earned Martha her greatest recognition and where she trained generations of Brown students, undergraduate as well as graduate, in field archaeology. Her major

publications include *A Complete Manual of Field Archaeology* (1980) and *Early Turkey* (1996). Between 1989 and 1993, Martha served as the President of the American Institute of Archaeology. She was also honored by national and international institutions with multiple medals and awards.

Martha was a leading field archaeologist, who dedicated her life to exploring the Middle East; a champion of archaeological methodology and the accessible publication of data; and a mentor generous with her time and material; she was also a role model for female students and scholars in Archaeology far beyond those she herself taught. The legacy that she and Artemis established in the *Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World* at Brown University, which promotes archaeological research, fieldwork and public outreach, will long be remembered. (Three published obituaries, slightly modified by Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



RANDOM SURVEY

Harbor Excavated:

Archaeologists digging at Kition, Cyprus, have recently unearthed the remains of boatsheds at the ancient harbor of Neoria, dating to the Archaic period (750-500 BC). The natural harbor, mentioned by the Greek geographer Strabo, once housed triremes. A stone pillar base was also found at the harbor. Earlier remains from the Transitional period (12-11 centuries BC) were also found, including a pit with Phoenician plaques and ostraca, suggesting a scribal office. A house with multiple floor levels and a hearth also date to this time.

Minoan DNA Research:

Recent analysis of mitochondrial DNA from over 100 samples of bone from the third and second millennia BC individuals found in caves on the Lassithi Plateau, in eastern Crete, suggests that the Minoan civilization was comprised of local European ancestry.

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

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Ostraca Collection Found:

Excavators at the Ptolemaic site of Athribis, located about 193 km north of Luxor, have found over 18,000 ostraca. Egyptians viewed ostraca (inscribed pottery sherds) as a cheaper alternative to papyrus. The second largest collection ever found in Egypt, these ostraca include, "shopping lists" and the "homework" of students, containing repetitive phrases on both sides. Around 80 percent of the ostraca are written in demotic. There are even a few pictorial ostraca, depicting animals, such as birds and scorpions, deities, geometric figures, and humans.

Shrine Found:

A Neolithic-period shrine with an altar and two standing stones carved with human facial features has recently been found in the eastern desert of Jordan. The shrine was found inside a hunting encampment, located within proximity to a "desert kite;" an entrapment devise made for corralling wild deer and gazelles. Finds at the shrine include flint tools, animal figurines and numerous marine fossils.

Temple Found?

Archaeologists in Iran believe they have found the site of a temple built by Antiochus III for his wife Laodicea in the city of Nahavand. Finds include a Greek inscription, statues of Greek gods and monumental architectural fragments (an altar and columns).

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