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Institute of Archaeology & the Horn  
Archaeological Museum Newsletter

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Archaeological Museum

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Winter 1997

## Institute of Archaeology & Horn Archaeological Museum Newsletter Volume 18.1

David Merling

Andrews University, merling@andrews.edu

Paul J. Ray Jr.

Andrews University, rayp@andrews.edu

Douglas R. Clark

Walla Walla College, clardo@wwc.edu

Philip R. Drey

Andrews University, drey@andrews.edu

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## INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

### Museum Goes Electronic

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY  
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM  
NEWSLETTER

Ralph E. Hendrix Editor  
David Merling Assc. Editor  
Randall W. Younker Assc. Editor  
Philip R. Drey Ed.Assistant

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Volume 18, No. 1  
Winter 1997

As a result of the Madaba Plains Project's successful experiment with digital photography, the Horn Museum is moving to record all of its objects in digital memory and join those images with its information data bank. When this project is complete, researchers at the Horn Museum will be able to view accession information, including photos of all objects, from a computer screen. Although the entire process will take several years, even within this year Web users will be able to view some of the museum objects on the Institute's forthcoming Web site.

Only two months before the 1996 dig season began Randall Younker, the Institute's director, decided to dispense with traditional photography at Tell Jalul. Other contingents of the Madaba Plains Project quickly became interested in Younker's plans and the whole team moved into the digital camera era. With the guidance of Randy Siebold, a digital camera expert teaching in Andrews University's Department of Technology Education, Younker purchased four digital cameras.

Siebold also came to the dig to help initiate everyone to digital photography. His main assistant was Dana Langlois, who weathered the entire season and most of the worry generated by those less acquainted with computers and digital photography. In the end, digital photography has saved untold hours of processing and provided photo-flexibility never before available.

The Museum project could not be accomplished without the aid of several individuals. Paul J. Ray, Jr., who serves as the Assistant to the Curator, is supervising the digital photography. Dana Langlois is the digital camera consultant, who is helping us set up an efficient photography system. Much credit also needs to go to Karen Borstad, University of Arizona, who developed our database system for the field project and is currently revising the museum's database. When she is finished the field records and museum's database will be integrated, making the processing of data much more efficient. (David Merling)



Dana Langlois takes a digital picture at Tell el-Umeiri while Larry Herr, Jim Fisher, and others help steady the ladder. (Courtesy of Douglas Clark)



## Radio

David Merling, Curator of the Horn Archaeological Museum, and Paul J. Ray, Jr., the Assistant to the Curator, were recently interviewed on a live radio broadcast. Bob Mix, host of LifeQuest, a program of the Life Talk Radio Network, a Christian Radio Station in the state of Washington, was the interviewer. The program airs at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Time.

The book of Genesis is currently being studied on the program and the staff at the Institute of Archaeology/Horn Archaeological Museum were contacted in order to bring insights from the perspective of archaeology to this study.

Merling discussed the archaeological context of the patriarchal narratives, including the relevancy of the Nuzi tablets. Mr. Ray contributed insights on the role of archaeology in general and spent some time discussing creation and flood stories from various literary sources of the Ancient Near East that contribute to an understanding of the same themes in the Bible. Other members of the Institute/ Museum staff will be interviewed in future programs. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



## '96 MPP/ASOR

Douglas R. Clark, consortium director of the Madaba Plains Project, has recently provided the following list of MPP-affiliated contributors presenting reports at the year-end ASOR/SBL meetings in New Orleans (including an apology for any overlooked).

Clark, of Walla Walla College, chaired the "ASOR Madaba Plains Project Staff Consultation: Tell el-'Umeiri, Tell Jalul, and Vicinity." Lawrence T. Geraty, LaSierra University, hosted the "ASOR Madaba Plains Project Reception for Staff and Friends." Larry G. Herr, Columbia Union College, elected as a new associate editor of BASOR at the meetings, chaired the "ASOR Canada Board Meeting" and, with David C. Hopkins, Wesley Theological Seminary, presented "Seals, Sites, and Specialization: Rural Economy and Administration at Tall al-'Umayri and Associated Agricultural Sites in the Late Iron II and Early Persian Periods."

Other members participating in sessions included Carolyn F. Draper, Archbishop Ryan High School, who presided over the "Outreach Education Section." Chang-ho Ji, LaSierra



## HAM LECTURE SERIES

14 Apr 97 Jacob Milgrom

Biblical and Archaeological Evidence for the Extent and Nature of Idolatry in 8th and 7th Century Judah

University, read "Students as Diggers: The Educational Benefits of Archaeological Simulations" as well as "Settlement Patterns in the Region of Tell Hesban and Tell el-'Umeiri: An Interim Summary of Survey Data." Timothy P. Harrison, University of Chicago, presented "The 1996 Tell Madaba Excavations: Investigations of Urban Life in Highland Central Jordan" while Richard P. Watson, San Juan College, gave a computerized video presentation on the Azraq oasis. Gary L. Christopherson, University of Arizona, delivered the "Geographic Information Systems and Cultural Factors in Settlement Strategies." (Douglas R. Clark)

## ACOR

The American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR), a private, international, academic institution, is located in Amman, Jordan. This non-profit organization is dedicated to the advancement of research and publication in several fields of Near Eastern study including archaeology, anthropology, history, languages, biblical studies, Arabic, and Islamic studies. Providing guidance, coordination, equipment, research facilities, and living and meeting accommodations for scholars, ACOR oversees approximately 12 archaeological field projects during the excavation season, including the Madaba Plains Project. ACOR is also directly involved in the excavation and restoration of several sites including the Byzantine Church at Petra and the construction of an archaeological park in Madaba.

While facilitating archaeological field work, the ACOR fellowship program, hosting over 30 resident fellows each year, encourages archaeological research as well. The center also publishes several quality archaeological resources, such as the *Jordanian Antiquities Database and Information System: A Summary of Data (JADIS)* and the *Mosaics of Jordan*, by Michele Piccirillo, with others in preparation or planned for publication. ACOR also carries other archaeological books.

As a non-profit organization, ACOR relies on the contributions of generous individuals and corporations. With this in mind and to insure its future, the Board of Trustees created an endowment fund in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Humanities. With funds raised during the endowment drive, ACOR will remain to be a motivating force behind the archaeology of Jordan. ACOR may be contacted in Jordan at: PO Box 2470, Amman 11181, JORDAN, or in Boston at: 656 Beacon St., 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02215-2010. (Philip R. Drey)

## Mattingly Lectures on the KRP

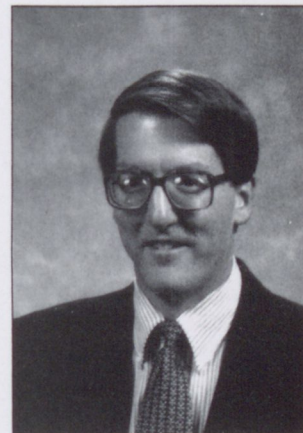
The 1997 Horn Archaeological Museum Lecture Series commenced on February 24 with an illustrative lecture presented by Gerald L. Mattingly, Professor of Bible and Archaeology at Johnson Bible College, Knoxville, TN, and who is Director of the Kerak Resources Project (KRP). Mattingly provided a brief description and update of the KRP and then detailed the upcoming season of excavation at el-Mdeibi'.

The Kerak Resources Project is a multidisciplinary endeavor concerned with how natural resources were utilized in ancient times, especially during the Iron Age (1200-332 BC) in central Transjordan (Moab). By this focus, a deeper understanding of the cultural and historical development of this geographic area by means of excavation and survey will be gained. Mattingly has assembled a taskforce of various specialists who will compile data of diverse areas to be analyzed and interpreted. These interpretations will provide a much-needed background to this little known area in Transjordan.

A small survey in 1995 was conducted by KRP in order to locate a possible site for future excavation. The site of el-Mdeibi' was chosen and will be the main focus for the upcoming excavations this season. El-Mdeibi' is located on the southeastern plateau of Moab, on the west side of the valley connecting the Desert Highway and the King's Highway. It was heavily fortified in ancient times as still-standing walls of basalt and chert witness. The location and architecture of el-Mdeibi' attests to its role as protector of trading caravans which traversed east and west along the frontier.

The summer of 1997 will be the second field season for KRP and will have three objectives. The first objective is to open two fields at el-Mdeibi' to solve several preliminary problems. The second objective is a site survey aimed to augment the work conducted by J. Maxwell Miller, Emory University, in the 1970s. The third objective is a regional survey conducted by specialists of various disciplines, including geology, geomorphology, and ethnology.

Mattingly is a past alumnus of the Madaba Plains Project (1994) and has adapted the methodology used by MPP to his research in Moab in addition to utilizing several MPP experts. Anyone interested in the KRP may contact Dr. Mattingly at: 7900 Johnson Drive, Johnson Bible College, Knoxville, TN 37998. (Philip R. Drey)



Gerald Mattingly.



## AL-MAKTABA

THE BOOKSTORE

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The Baalis seal, found during the 1984 season at Tell el-'Umeiri, was used in a recent article written by Ronald Hendel (BASOR 301, pp. 69-76) to address the linguistic problem of Shibbolet/Sibbolet in Judges 12:6. This is another example of how the work of the MPP is being used to benefit biblical studies.

The Institute of Archaeology/Horn Archaeological Museum has recently received a number of gracious donations which we appreciate very much, in particular that of Katherine Boyd.

## MORE WWW ADDRESSES

[nexus.srn.arizona.edu/~garych/](http://nexus.srn.arizona.edu/~garych/)

Papers by MPP personnel may be found in this site designed by Gary L. Christopherson.

[www.sjc.cc.nm.us/](http://www.sjc.cc.nm.us/)

Designed by Richard Watson and Doug Schnurrenberger, this site provides data on the Azraq Basin Prehistory and Paleoenvironment Project.

## JOURNALS ON WWW:

[classics.lsa.umich.edu/AJA.html](http://classics.lsa.umich.edu/AJA.html)

American Journal of Archaeology

[www.he.net/~archaeol/index.html](http://www.he.net/~archaeol/index.html)

Archaeology magazine

[scholar.cc.emory.edu/scripts/ASOR](http://scholar.cc.emory.edu/scripts/ASOR)

BASOR and Biblical Archaeologist

[www.art.man.ac.uk/arthist/LEVANT.HTM](http://www.art.man.ac.uk/arthist/LEVANT.HTM)

Levant

Several members of MPP have been published in the latest issue of Biblical Archaeologist (vol. 59). Russanne Low, Douglas Schnurrenberger, and Richard Watson contributed to the report (p. 239-240) on Paleolithic hunters of the Azraq oasis. An article (p. 241) by Douglas Clark detailed the Iron I pillared building at Tell el-'Umeiri. A reconstruction of this building drawn by Rhonda Root may also be seen here. Congratulations to all.

# NEWSLETTER



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