



ACOR  
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المركز الأمريكي للأبحاث  
AMERICAN CENTER OF RESEARCH

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA | AMMAN, JORDAN

# Annual Report 2022

January 1–December 31, 2022

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## Our Mission



**E**stablished in 1968, the American Center of Research (ACOR) is an international, non-profit academic institution. Our mission is advancing knowledge of Jordan and the interconnected region, past and present. ACOR facilitates the acquisition of knowledge through research and dialogue with an extensive library, archives, and residential facilities in Amman and with international fellowship and scholarship programs. ACOR promotes and supports research across a broad swath of the social, natural and physical sciences, humanities, and the arts. We do so through knowledge-sharing, including via lectures, digital resources, publications, workshops and training programs, archaeological research, and cultural heritage preservation. ACOR serves as a conduit for cultural exchange among students, professionals, and the public in Jordan, the region, and beyond.

Our activities focus on protection and promotion of cultural heritage, economic development and tourism, skills training and education, women's economic empowerment and leadership, positive youth development, private-sector development, and supporting the academic research of others.

*Front cover: Wedding at Petra, facilitated by ACOR, June 6, 2022.*

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## Message from the Executive Director



Pearce Paul Creasman  
Executive Director

The past year, 2022, was a remarkable one for ACOR. Emerging from the cloud of the pandemic, we are renewed and an organization in good health. In spring, we hosted our first board meeting in Amman in what felt like ages, doubling the event as a renovation celebration and reopening of the Amman center. Since then, we have hosted hundreds of colleagues and friends at lectures and workshops, bringing together people from all over the world. In the winter, we underwent a comprehensive external review (think “academic program review” at a university) and are pleased to relay it was a resounding success: the reviewers found that we are a fair, inclusive, well-managed, and sustainable organization, poised for growth.

Reflecting the dynamic growth we have already undergone these past years, and reflecting the trust placed in us by our colleagues, friends, donors, and granting agencies, we reached the largest extent in our history: 51 staff and 33 fellowship opportunities. While the fellows pursue our shared mission (advancing knowledge) independently, the staff are engaged in a wide range of collaborative projects that span our traditional strengths and establish new ones.

Working with our core partner, the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, we made important advances. Foremost, we launched a new initiative, funded by the U.S. Department of State, to establish a national inventory of movable cultural heritage. As we did decades ago with JADIS for the care of heritage sites in Jordan, we hope to do again for objects in this new five-year project. Similarly, with the DoA, we helped see the proceedings of the 2019 ICHAJ conference come to press, as the 900-page two-volume *Culture in Crisis: Flows of People, Artifacts and Ideas*. Volume 3 of *Archaeology in Jordan* was also published, covering work under pandemic conditions by 35 projects.

Many initiatives came to fruition in 2022, such as the completion of the second phase of our USAID-funded SCHEP and subsequent multi-year extension for a third phase. Critical results from SCHEP have seen the Amman Citadel south slope rehabilitation project advance and a raft of publications come to print, including *The Pottery of Jordan: A Manual*. Other efforts with national and international partners are developing, among them collaborations with the University of Arizona, the American University in Iraq, Baghdad, and Yemen’s General Organization of Antiquities and Museums, about which you will be able to read more in future issues of the *ACOR Newsletter*.

None of the above, or the rest you read in this annual report, would be possible without your engagement, the encouragement of the trustees, and the support of hundreds of friends and colleagues each year. Thank you for making all of this—and so much more—possible.

## Library & Archive

After two years of pandemic and renovation closures, March 2022 saw the long-awaited reopening of the library to in-person patrons. The collection has been fully reshelved and purchase of new volumes has resumed, making it ready for visitors whose numbers are slowly returning to those of pre-COVID-19 times. In December, students at the Hashemite University received informational presentations about the center, its fellowships, and its research resources, and more such outreach will take place at the center in January 2023.

As always, library and archive staff are hard at work, assisting patrons—whether in Amman or elsewhere—who need our resources.



### Title VI grant: ACOR Digital Archive: Developing a Multimedia Teaching and Learning Resource

Thanks to the Department of Education Title VI grant for the ACOR Digital Archive: Developing a Multimedia Teaching and Learning Resource project, archive staff completed digitization of the Barbara A. Porter and Brian Byrd collections, which respectively contain 13,000 and 3,000 photos. More than half (8,000) of the Porter collection holdings are now available online with their metadata. Other media, ranging from compact disks to floppy disks to Betamax tapes, have been transferred to the server for more stable storage, and we have archived more than 100 gigabytes of relevant websites—including our own early iterations, hosted at the time by Boston University.

Another facet of the grant was the creation of U.S. Educator Fellowships. For their projects, the first three fellows have created informational content that draw upon images from the digital archive.

- ◇ Silvio Gaggi (Professor Emeritus of Humanities and Cultural Studies, University of South Florida): Visual Art Unit (HUM 2020)
- ◇ Lori Merlak (Associate Dean, Kirkwood Community College, Iowa City Campus): Connecting Intercultural Studies
- ◇ Cassandra Farrell (Senior Map Archivist, Library of Virginia): Incorporating ACOR Photographs into Story Maps

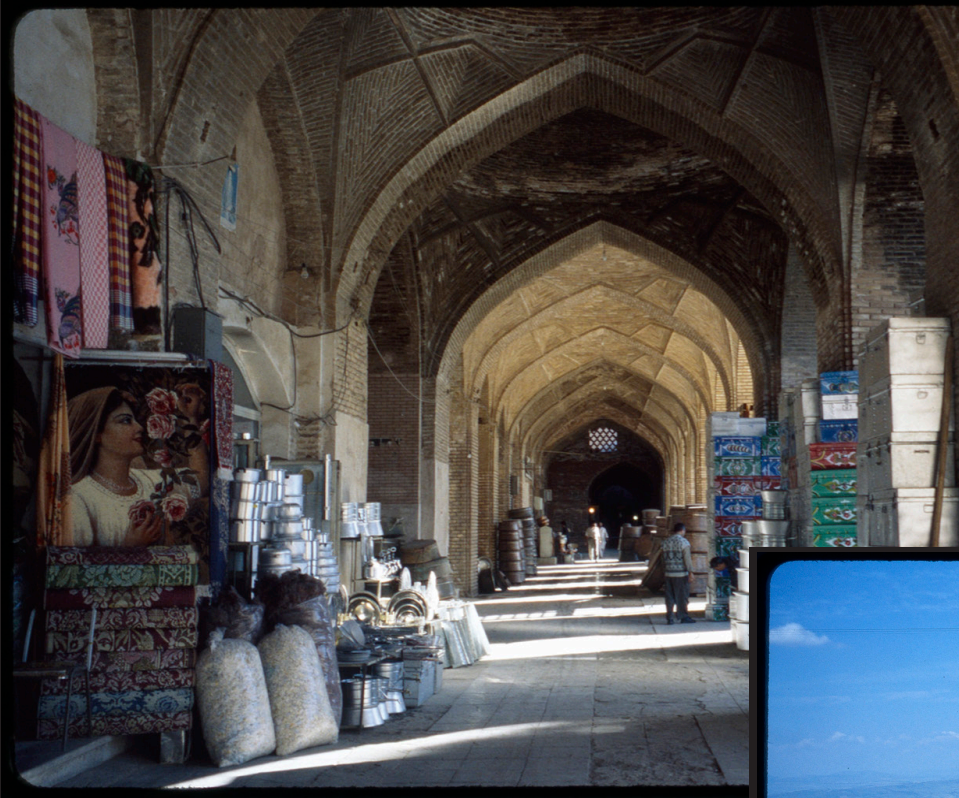
They also contributed two photo essays to the archive webpages in 2022, “Introduction to the Barbara A. Porter Collection” and “Living Witnesses of History and Successive Civilizations: Castles in Jordan.”



### By the Numbers

- ◇ Printed books acquired: 493
- ◇ Printed journal volumes acquired: 60
- ◇ Images made publicly available on the digital archive: 15,247
- ◇ Audio recordings made publicly available on the digital archive: 99
- ◇ Videos digitized for uploading to the digital archive: 130

## Library & Archive, continued Barbara A. Porter collection



- ◇ *(Above)* View down the arcade of the Ganjali Khan Bazaar with goods for sale, Kerman, Iran (ACOR\_BAP\_11794).
- ◇ *(Upper right)* Visitors wading in the Siq at Petra, Jordan, 1996 (ACOR\_BAP\_00730).
- ◇ *(Lower right)* General view toward Lake Tiberias (Sea of Galilee), with Ottoman houses, Umm Qais, Jordan (ACOR\_BAP\_00422).

## Brian Byrd collection



- ◇ *(Left)* Maraqin Station, Yarmouk Valley, Jordan (ACOR\_BB\_2878).
- ◇ *(Below)* Wadi Rum, Jordan (ACOR\_BB\_0958).

## Fellowships Awarded for 2022–2023

### National Endowment for the Humanities Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

- ◇ Yorke Rowan (Research Associate Professor, University of Chicago, Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures), “Tracking the Small Things: Late Neolithic Material Culture of the Black Desert”
- ◇ Arpan Roy (Research Associate, Johns Hopkins University, Program in Islamic Studies), “Call to Prayer: Romani People and the Islamic Mission”

### ACOR-CAORC Postdoctoral Fellowship

- ◇ Sarah Islam (Princeton University, Near Eastern Studies), “Blasphemy (*Sabb al-Rasūl*) as a Legal Category in Islamic Law: Historical Formulations and Contemporary Applications”

### ACOR-CAORC Predoctoral Fellowship

- ◇ Samar Ahmad (Graduate student, Georgetown University, History), “Gender and Revolution: A Social History of Jordan in the 1960s–1970s”
- ◇ Johnathan Norris (Graduate student, Boston University, Anthropology), “Politics of Place: Emotion, Religiopolitical Networks, and Place-Making Amongst Syrian Refugees”
- ◇ Clare Rasmussen (Graduate student, Bryn Mawr College, Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology), “Water Consumption in the Decapolis: Examining Water Use in the Ancient Cities of Gadara, Jerash, Pella, and Philadelphia”
- ◇ Nicolas Reeves (Graduate student, Sciences Po Paris and Freie Universität Berlin, International Development and Political Science), “The Impact of Low Tourism Demand on Tourism-Reliant Communities in Jordan”

### Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship

- ◇ Tucker Deady (Graduate student, University of Toronto, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations), “Archaeological Expedition to Khirbat Iskandar”

### Jennifer C. Groot Memorial Fellowship

- ◇ Adrienne Baker (Undergraduate student, University of Washington, Department of Anthropology), “Balu’a Regional Archaeological Project”

### Harrell Family Fellowship

- ◇ Summer Courts (Graduate student, University of Reading), Late Antique Jarash Project (“Life and Death in Late Hellenistic/Early Roman Jarash: A Study of the Human Remains Found in a Cistern in the Southwest Corner”)



*Fifteenth International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan closing ceremony: Ahmed Kzzo (director, Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property Project, ACOR), Lamia Kenoussi (postgraduate student, University of Strasbourg), Danielle Wolfson, Ian W. N. Jones (lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of California San Diego), Craig Harvey (postdoctoral associate, Department of Classical Studies, Western University).*

[T]he most significant takeaway from my time at the center has been the network I have crafted here. Having an international cohort of voices to run ideas by, discuss trends among, and share experiences with as foreign scholars was the single most impactful aspect of my time in Jordan. Going forward, these relationships will continue to bolster my understanding of the cultural heritage space and how we safeguard our interwoven histories. I am so thankful that I got to experience living and working in a research center and for the colleagues I met and friendships I made while at the American Center of Research.

—Danielle Wolfson, “ICHAJ 15 and the Value of International Collaboration in Cultural Heritage,” *Insights*, 16 November 2022

## Fellowships Awarded for 2022–2023, continued

### Harrell Family Fellowship

- ◇ Summer Courts (Graduate student, University of Reading), Late Antique Jarash Project (“Life and Death in Late Hellenistic/Early Roman Jarash: A Study of the Human Remains Found in a Cistern in the Southwest Corner”)

### James A. Sauer Fellowship

- ◇ Maéva Lhériteau (Graduate student, Sapienza, Università di Roma), “Archaeological Expedition to Khirbat Iskandar”

### Lawrence T. Geraty Travel Scholarship

- ◇ Domizia Paolucci (Graduate student, La Sapienza, University of Rome, Department of Sciences of Antiquity), “Archaeological Expedition to Khirbat Iskandar”

### Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship

- ◇ McClean Pink (Graduate student, East Carolina University, Anthropology), “Petra North Ridge Mortuary Practices”

### S. Thomas Parker Memorial Fund

- ◇ Hafsa Al-Jandabi (Undergraduate student, German Jordanian University, Architectural Conservation), “Conflict Damage Assessment in the Old City of Sana’a and Recommendations for Post-Conflict Conservation”

### Jordanian Graduate Student Scholarship

- ◇ Ahmad Ababnah (Graduate student, Yarmouk University, Archaeology), “The Mamluk and Ottoman Mosques on the Shami Pilgrimage Route”
- ◇ Jalal Alheji (Graduate student, Yarmouk University, Archaeology), “Neolithic Sickle Blades of Tell Abu Suwwan from the 2005–2008 Excavation: Descriptive, Analytical the Comparative Study”
- ◇ Abed Alsuliman (Graduate student, Yarmouk University, Geology), “Investigation of the Eastern Part of the Amman-Hallabat Structure in Jordan Using Geological Study and Remote Sensing Analysis and Its Effect on Hallabat Palace Stability”
- ◇ Bushra Dabash (Graduate student, University of Jordan, Archaeology), University Study

### Kenneth W. Russell Memorial Fellowship

- ◇ Rasha Albader (Graduate student, Yarmouk University, Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage Resources), “Conservation of the Twelve Great Feasts from Baptism Museum Using Zinc Oxide Nanoparticles”

### Frederick-Wenger Memorial Jordanian Educational Fellowship

- ◇ Sara Abo Alfoul (Undergraduate student, The Hashemite University, Nursing), “Implementing Hospice Care in Jordan”
- ◇ Nour Hammash (Graduate Student, German-Jordanian University, Social Work/Migration and Refugees), University Study

### Jordanian Travel Scholarship for ASOR Annual Meeting

- ◇ Ahmad Al-Adamat (New Umm El-Jimal Municipality), “Impact of Refugees Community at the Umm el-Jimal on the Re-Use of Basalt Stone in the Local Community Architecture and Urban Fabric”
- ◇ Samar Shammas (Columbia Global Centers) “‘You shall take the garments...’ (Ex. 29: 5): Clothing and Fashion in the Levant during the Middle Bronze Age in Light of Palatial Wall Paintings”



*The Petra North Ridge.*

Throughout the months of June and July 2022, I held a Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship at the American Center of Research in Amman and, while resident there, used their resources to complete the data collection for my master’s thesis, which focuses on the site of Petra, specifically the Petra North Ridge. [...] Because this area may have been inhabited by individuals of the lower classes, given the simplistic burial styles and living conditions compared to other parts of Petra, research here contributes to creating a fuller understanding of life and death at this major site.

[....]

My research time at the American Center led me to a better understanding of and improved documentation of the artifacts within this collection, which will allow me to complete my data collection and complete my master’s thesis.

—McClean Pink, “Analyzing Petra’s Small Finds,”  
*Insights*, 23 August 2022

## Publications

### *Archaeology in Jordan 3*

The third volume of our open-access biennial journal, edited by Pearce Paul Creasman, Jack Green, and China P. Shelton, was published in November 2022. Dubbed “The Pandemic Volume” because it spans the 2020–2021 field seasons, it features thirty-five papers that demonstrate the resilience of Jordanian and other teams in the face of a global challenge not seen in more than a century.

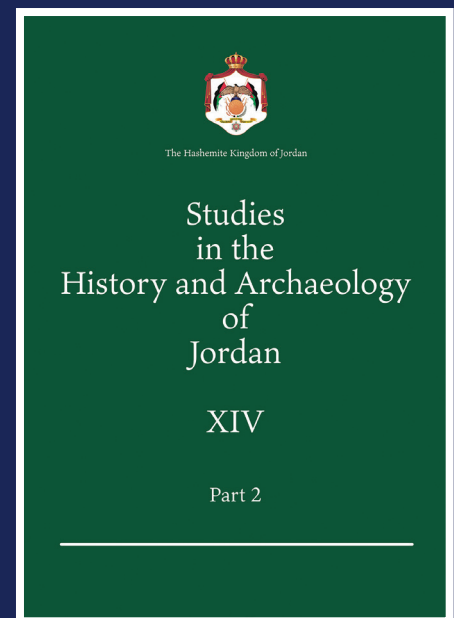
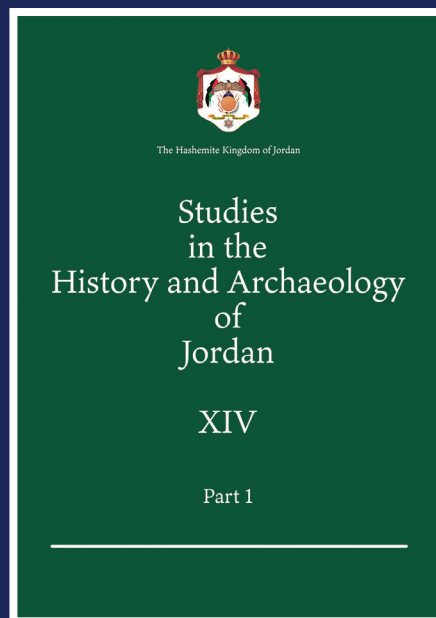
The entire volume and individual contributions may be downloaded for this and past volumes at no cost from our website:

[publications.acorjordan.org/volumes](https://publications.acorjordan.org/volumes)

### *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan 14*

Drawing from the expertise of both outside colleagues and staff, the American Center was instrumental in publishing the monumental fourteenth volume of Department of Antiquities' *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan*, which is the proceedings of the Fourteenth International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan, held in Florence, Italy, in 2019. Editing and typesetting its more than 50 articles and 900 pages took the editorial efforts of Fadi Bala'awi, director of the Department of Antiquities, and Pearce Paul Creasman, the American Center of Research's executive director, with Carrie L. Sulosky Weaver, adjunct teaching professor at the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Classics, providing the final copyediting and arrangement of the contents. Other DoA and American Center staff contributed to the editing: Mohammad Naser, Hanadi Al Thaher, China P. Shelton, Hala Alsyoof, Mariam Ibrahim, Osama Eid, Ali Alhaji, and Noreen Doyle. *SHAJ 14* was typeset in two parts because of its great size. Papers on prehistory, the Bronze Age, and the Iron Age and Nabatean archaeology appear in part 1; part 2 contains papers on the Greco-Roman, Byzantine, and Islamic periods, as well as archaeological methods, excavation, curation, and reception.

Copies may be obtained directly from the Department of Antiquities.





## Publications, continued



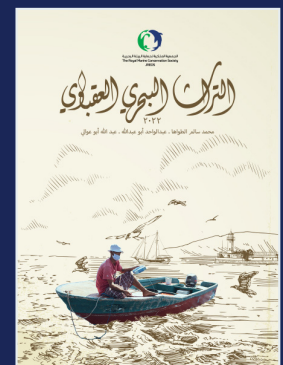
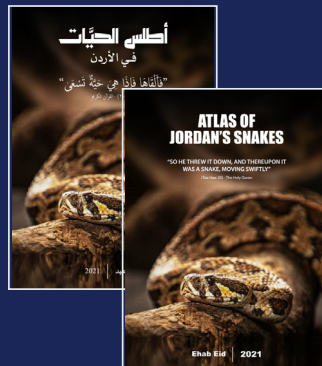
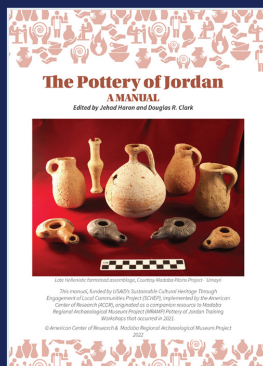
### *The American Center of Research Since 1968*

The center's informative booklet has been updated to cover new projects and includes a map that shows locations of projects in which we have been involved, in varying capacities, since its founding.

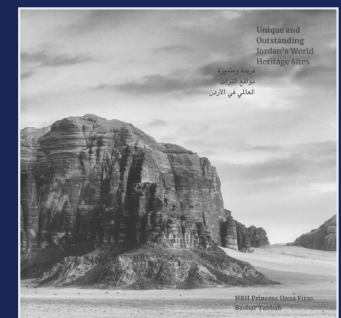
Printed copies can be obtained at no cost from the center in Amman, and the PDF is available for download on the website:

[publications.acorjordan.org/books/acor-since-1968-booklet](http://publications.acorjordan.org/books/acor-since-1968-booklet)

## SCHEP-Supported Publications



- ◇ *The Pottery of Jordan: A Manual* edited by Jehad Haron and Douglas R. Clark
- ◇ *Atlas of the Snakes of Jordan* by Ehab Eid (in Arabic and English editions)
- ◇ *The Archaeological and Tourism Reality in the Eastern Desert* by Ahmad Lash (in Arabic)
- ◇ *Aqabawi Marine Heritage* by Mohammad Al Tawaha, Abed Alwahed Abu Abdullah, and Abdullah Abu Awali (in Arabic)
- ◇ *Unique and Outstanding: Jordan's World Heritage Sites* by HRH Princess Dana Firas; photographs by Bashar Al-Tabbaa (bilingual edition)



## Insights

**February 10:** Kyle Benedict Craig: "Ethnographic Research on Graffiti/Street Art, Youth, and Urban Space in Amman"

**March 30:** Charlotte Vekemans: "Exploring the Political Economy of Cultural Heritage"

**April 13:** Keegan Terek: "Speaking SOGI Asylum: Humanitarian Discourses of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in Amman"

**May 10:** Joel S. Burnett: "Ammonite Kings and Gods in Stone: Reading the Iconography in Its Broader Near Eastern Context"

**June 21:** Allison J. Anderson: "Jordanian Women and the Digital Economy During COVID-19"

**August 23:** McClean Pink: "Analyzing Petra's Small Finds"

**September 30:** Amy Karoll: "Traversing the Landscape"

**November 15:** Kathryn Grossman: "Animal Lives at Petra"

**November 16:** Danielle Wolfson: "ICHAJ 15 and the Value of International Collaboration in Cultural Heritage"

*SCHEP team staff (Zaid Kashour, Hisham Al Majali, and Shatha Abu Aballi) at the Amman Citadel site to check and document work on the project.*



**T**wenty-twenty-two was to be the last year of the USAID-funded Sustainable Cultural Heritage through Engagement of Local Communities Project, rounding out a remarkably prolific project that began in 2014 and had already received one extension from USAID that kept it running into this year. A successful application submitted in July resulted in its second and final extension, which will maintain SCHEP through to its ultimate completion in February 2024. Some of SCHEP's accomplishments in 2022 include:

### **Amman Citadel**

Work on the southern gate area of the Amman Citadel concluded in April 2022, with the installation of a stone stairway. This became a key element in a collaborative project undertaken by SCHEP, the Department of Antiquities (DoA), the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and the Greater Amman Municipality to link the Citadel with the Roman Theater in downtown Amman, and with other heritage locations along the trail in between. The next phase consists of a topographical, hydrological, and stabilization study of the site necessary for the preservation of the southern slope's historic remains; this is ongoing and expected to conclude in February 2023. Workshops to engage members of the local community and other stakeholders in the opportunities offered by the tourist trail were held, and a project field school that began on December 18 will continue into February.

### **Aqabawi Kitchen**

Upgrades that SCHEP undertook in 2022 increased fivefold (from five to twenty-five) the number of simultaneous visitors who can enjoy the traditional cuisine and visit to a Jordanian home offered by Foad Al-Aklouk's Aqabawi Kitchen in Aqaba. Aqabawi Kitchen began when Foad Al-Aklouk participated in the SCHEP-supported Aqabawi incubation project, which has seen great success encouraging locally owned businesses in Jordan's only port city since its inception in 2018.

## SCHEP, continued

*Safa Al Rfou' and a colleague walk along a trail where a new interpretive sign has been installed at Busayra.*



### Busayra

In 2018, SCHEP awarded a grant to Safa Al Rfou' to establish the Busayra Cultural Heritage Foundation, and together the two organizations developed the historical site of Busayra so that it can serve the needs of visitors and residents alike. There are now trails and bilingual interpretive signs for the site, which served as the administrative and political capital of the kingdom of Edom during the Iron Age (c. 800–500 BCE). The foundation (which occupies a formerly abandoned house that was refurbished with financial and technical support from the grant) offers hands-on cultural activities, including preparing traditional dishes and creating ceramics, as well as training for students and developing partnerships that will benefit Busayra's cultural heritage.

### International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS-Jordan)

ICOMOS-Jordan—an organization that connects archaeologists, historians, architects, engineers, town planners, and many other experts committed to protecting Jordan's cultural heritage—received the first of three grants from SCHEP that will help it achieve its goals of sustainability and outreach. SCHEP supported publication of *Unique and Outstanding: Jordan's World Heritage Sites*, by HRH Princess Dana Firas with photographs by Bashar Al-Tabbaa, which was launched with a book-signing ceremony in October and was the subject of a discussion panel at Yarmouk University in December. A workshop held in collaboration with the Queen Rania Faculty of Tourism and Heritage at the Hashemite University in Zarqa raised students' awareness of the importance of cultural heritage and ICOMOS-Jordan's mission and methods. For the organization's social media campaign, SCHEP aided in the production of an introductory video featuring HRH Princess Dana Firas.



*Attendees gathering at the Cultural Hub Bayt Yaish in Amman before the book-launch ceremony for *Unique and Outstanding: Jordan's World Heritage Sites*.*

### Jordan Archaeological Heritage Strategy

Since 2018, SCHEP has been helping the Department of Antiquities develop Jordan's new Archaeological Heritage Strategy, which will create the systems and institutional and legal frameworks to promote the country's archaeological heritage at all levels—from local to international—using latest technologies and best practices and integrating sustainable economic, social, and cultural development. A draft of the strategy drew from archaeological missions, archaeological conservation, management,

## SCHEP, continued

and related projects, plans for Jordan's World Heritage Sites, risk-management plans, action plans, project-evaluation methods, and related data sources. The draft, which was sent to stakeholders for comments and questions, features two pillars: 1) developing management of archaeological heritage resources and 2) developing a supportive and enabling environment through participation of stakeholders. The Arabic draft has been finalized and translated into English. It will be printed in 2023.

Related training sessions developed and supported by SCHEP in 2022 have helped develop the capacities of staff from the DoA, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Greater Amman Municipality, Wadi Rum Protected Area, and other governmental entities and NGOs. These covered such topics as preparation of various kinds of reports and documentation, as well as content marketing

and digital public relations. The DoA and SCHEP also agreed to develop an action plan, key performance indicators, and a monitoring and evaluation plan.

### Jordan Cultural Heritage Portal (JorCHP)

The Arabic portion of this comprehensive online resource hub for information and knowledge related to cultural heritage resources in Jordan launched in 2022, featuring project results, scholarship opportunities, CHR-related legal documents, and much more. Work on the English-language version of the portal began in August and should be complete in mid-2023.

For SCHEP-supported work at Khirbet Salameh, see p. 13, and for SCHEP-supported books, see p. 9.



### Natural Science Museum at Al-Hussein Bin Talal University

This new museum—brainchild of the dean of Al-Hussein Bin Talal University's faculty of science, Prof. Jebreel Khoshman—opened in March 2022 to serve particularly as an educational tool for Al-Hussein Bin Talal University, and its diverse displays of southern Jordan's natural history will attract many in the local community and others from throughout the Ma'an Governorate. SCHEP participated in developing and executing the designs for its spaces and displays, visitor interact with the exhibits, and maintenance plans and staff training to ensure sustainability of its collections.



## Khirbet Salameh

The American Center is always looking for ways to present Jordan's heritage, whether through its archive and library, public lectures, publications, on-site signage, or many other means. In 2017 and 2018, for example, glass signs imprinted with translucent graphics were installed for the Temple of the Winged Lions in Petra. Looking through them gives the visitor a view to reconstructions of how the temple would have looked in antiquity, superimposed over the landscape of today. Digitally, imposing graphics and other information over the "real world" can be taken further as augmented reality (AR), and in 2021-2022, with funding from SCHEP, we created an AR app for Khirbet Salameh.



Nestled into the hillside west of the center, familiar to all who have visited us, Khirbet Salameh is a rare survivor from ancient times, the remains of a Roman-period farmstead of the 2nd century CE, reused during Byzantine and early Islamic times. Here, through the decades, we have undertaken excavation projects in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities. Most recently, with the support of SCHEP, ACOR associate director for projects Jihad Haron and archaeological and archaeological and preservation projects supervisor Ala'a Al Badarin oversaw installation of a stone wall and staircase with handrails for safety and improved access and the planting of trees to demark the site. Additional safety measures and a lighting system further enhance the experience for visitors.

The bilingual Khirbet Salameh app, created by Hussam Ababneh, supplements bilingual signage installed as part of the project. Useable on a smartphone or similar device, it offers a virtual-tour video and a 3-D plan, both of which can be used either onsite or, with a copy of the printed plan, offsite. In addition, onsite visitors can enjoy augmented-reality views showing the site as it appeared when the hillside overlooked a fertile valley. Re-creating the ancient landscape digitally called for a full understanding of it archaeologically and geographically. Surveys, geomorphology study, topographic site plans, physical evidence at the site, aerial photos, and knowledge of ancient agricultural practices were vital to the creation process.



The American Center is pioneering this technology in Jordan and hopes to document and present more sites in this way.

To download the free app, scan the QR code with your device or visit the the following links:

Android: [play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.WerewolfStudios.KhirbetSalamehAR](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.WerewolfStudios.KhirbetSalamehAR)

Apple: [apps.apple.com/ca/app/khirbet-salameh/id1623698172](https://apps.apple.com/ca/app/khirbet-salameh/id1623698172)



# Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property Project



**O**n April 19, 2022, the Department of Antiquities and the American Center of Research signed an agreement to implement the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property Project. With funding from a \$209,000 grant issued by the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Amman, through this initiative ACOR provides the DoA with training and other resources to improve the department’s capabilities in combating illicit trafficking of cultural property. The importance of defending Jordan’s heritage, a critical element of national wealth, extends beyond its borders. Because the project will help to curtail the illegal acquisition and smuggling of archaeological artifacts in Jordan, its effects will have an impact on individuals and groups in Jordan, the United States, and elsewhere who profit from such activity. This potentially includes those that the United States has designated as terrorist organizations.

Before the signing of the MOU, ACOR and DoA staff met multiple times to discuss the DoA’s existing procedures and challenges when dealing with seized cultural property and what equipment and training was needed to enhance its effectiveness.

The project has delivered equipment to support work in the office and in the field: computers, cameras and other photographic tools, and barcode printers and scanners. It created a searchable list of worldwide experts DoA staff



*Training course held in Irbid.*



*Training in barcoding for tracking artifacts.*

## Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property Project, continued

can consult when a question arises regarding the identity or authenticity of an artifact.

There are standards for identifying, inventorying, tracking, and storing seized artifacts that maintain them as viable evidence when a legal case is brought. These—as well as local laws, international conventions, similar projects in other countries, and techniques and best practices for identifying and preventing illicit trafficking and for repatriating artifacts—were covered in trainings held in Amman, Aqaba, and Irbid. These and the courses to be held in next year will be incorporated into a manual that can be used for years after the project ends in September 2023. Many of the participants were in their mid-thirties or younger and will carry forward what they learn long into their careers.



*Training course held in Irbid.*

The four courses—classroom and hands-on/in the field—given in 2022 trained forty-two DoA staff. Representing areas throughout Jordan, they were heads of directorates, museum curators, and antiquities inspectors.

Beyond all of this, the project also provides a vital opportunity to deepen ties between the U.S. and Jordan and to promote our mutual understanding of the inherent value of cultural heritage.

### By the Numbers

- ◇ Training courses: 4
- ◇ Men trained: 27
- ◇ Women trained: 15

## The National Cultural Heritage Property Database of the Kingdom of Jordan



*Henry T. Wooster, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan, speaking at the reception during which the project was announced.*

In September 2022, the United States Department of State awarded a \$1.9 million grant to establish a database that will allow the Department of Antiquities to inventory and track Jordan’s moveable cultural heritage property—a task vital to Jordan’s anti-trafficking efforts. Groundwork has been laid with the DoA for our partnership in this project, which will run until early 2027. After consultation with the project team, which visited collections to assess the current state of the data, the department has selected the archival collections management system.

Still in its earliest phase, the project is already making good progress, and the coming years will surely be productive.



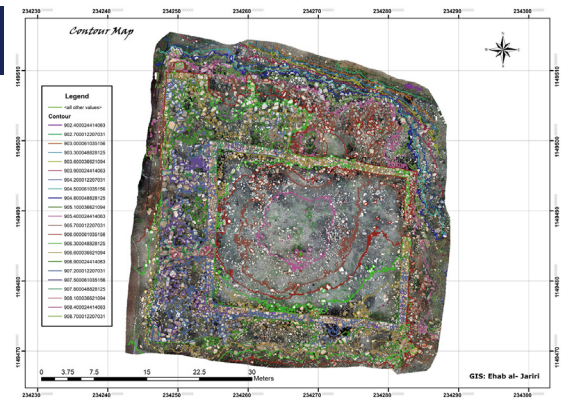
## Abdoun Community Archaeology Project

**A** result of a partnership between the American Center and the Department of Antiquities, the Abdoun Community Archaeology Project invites volunteers from the local community—Jordanian and foreign—to participate in the excavation of Abdoun South, a site in their own neighborhood. Volunteers gain not just training and experience in archaeological field methods and methodologies but also, even more importantly, a kind of appreciation for the history and heritage of Jordan that only hands-on experience can convey.

The site of Abdoun South comprises the remains of several buildings constructed of limestone first noted archaeologically by a survey undertaken in 1880 by the Palestine Exploration Fund. Today the site occupies the Japanese Garden, a park amid a bustling multicultural area of Amman with embassies of Australia, Egypt, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the United States, and others not far away. It is known from the major building on the site that it dates to the time of the Ammonite Kingdom, during the 8th to the 6th centuries BCE (early Iron Age II). Work on the community archaeology project began in the last week of December 2021, with a survey and documentation of the surface and clearance of trash and brush. The team, led by Jehad Haron, created site plans, a 3-D model, and a grid system for future excavation.

Calls for participants went out through social media in 2022, and, under the supervision of experts, on weekends the volunteers carried out most of the archaeological work. The project revealed reuse in Roman and Islamic times. Further exploration of the site in future seasons will reveal even more about its history.

Engaging communities in archaeological projects such as the one at Abdoun South strengthens ties between community and heritage and provides people of today an opportunity to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the past and its importance in the world we all live in.



*Volunteers at the end of the 2022 season.*



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Many donations were made in memory or in honor of others. For complete details, see newsletters 34.1, and 34.2.

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*Your donations keep us going, making it possible for us to offer additional outreach programs—such as an opportunity for Scouts to learn about archaeology at Khirbet Salameh (April 2022)—facilitate events for colleagues, as we did in July for the 2022 Conference of the United States-Jordan University Cooperation Network, and do so much more.*

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*Palestine sunbird at the center, May 2022.*

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Staff on the veranda for the board meeting in Amman, May 2022.

# Statement of Financial Position

## Balance Sheet

	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2021
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>	<b>S</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	432,796	244,489
Investments	7,067,218	8,965,360
Grants remaining (unspent amounts)	4,033,183	1,994,262
Other current assets	182,625	237,144
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b><u>11,715,822</u></b>	<b><u>11,441,255</u></b>
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	2,216,077	487,353
<b>Total assets</b>	<b><u>13,931,899</u></b>	<b><u>11,928,608</u></b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b><u>158,711</u></b>	<b><u>132,391</u></b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	7,675,891	7,609,734
Temporarily restricted (including Grants remaining)	4,367,435	2,486,110
Permanently restricted	1,729,862	1,700,373
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b><u>13,773,188</u></b>	<b><u>11,796,217</u></b>

## Income Statement

	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2021
<b>Income</b>		
Grants revenues	1,746,599	2,827,403
Contributions	142,323	340,282
Local revenues	146,352	138,613
Investment income	(1,529,128)	1,989,367
Other	1,882,693	12,949
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b><u>2,388,839</u></b>	<b><u>5,308,614</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Grants expenses	(946,264)	(1,971,273)
Occupancy	(146,295)	(124,740)
Management and general expenses	(1,182,436)	(1,352,663)
Depreciation	(117,443)	(79,091)
Fundraising and program development	(99,344)	(89,319)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b><u>(2,491,782)</u></b>	<b><u>(3,617,086)</u></b>
<b>Surplus/(shortfall) for the year</b>	<b><u>102,943</u></b>	<b><u>1,691,528</u></b>
<b>Surplus/(shortfall) for the year excluding unrealized investment gains/losses and depreciation</b>	<b><u>113,150</u></b>	<b><u>(6,098)</u></b>

## Strategic Pillars



*Roman Temple,  
Amman Citadel, 1995.*

### **Pillar I: Advancing Knowledge**

The American Center of Research is a center for scholarly excellence spanning the social, natural, and physical sciences, the humanities, and the arts. ACOR serves a diverse set of scholars, students, and the public from North America, Jordan, and the region, and it has strong cooperative relationships with national and international scholarly institutions and governments.

### **Pillar II: Preserving & Recording Cultural Heritage**

The American Center of Research fosters the preservation and study of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in their natural environments as a core aspect of its mission. Advancing economic development and educational opportunities with local communities is integral to these efforts. Through its own initiatives and by assisting those of national governments, local communities, and international projects and institutions, ACOR seeks to preserve, explicate, share, and record the rich history of Jordan and the region. Within the region, ACOR's efforts encompass all temporal bounds, cultural frameworks, and scholarly disciplines.

### **Pillar III: Engagement**

The American Center of Research has relationships internationally, most especially in Jordan and the region. Engagement and development of deep relationships is expected among international, national, and local governmental agencies, NGOs, and academic institutions. ACOR strategically communicates with these agencies/institutions, including the public, to ensure that its mission and activities are understood by a diverse set of stakeholders. While ACOR communicates primarily in English, engagement in Arabic will be increased.

### **Pillar IV: Services**

One of the American Center of Research's core functions is as a service provider. ACOR seeks to add relevant services in support of its mission and increased financial stability. ACOR maintains a solid infrastructure, including high-speed internet connections, appropriate technological tools, investments in scholarly materials and related staff, concise and up-to-date policies regarding its services (e.g., acquiring and preserving materials), and modern research/learning spaces. ACOR's Center in Amman serves as a hub for the region, to which people are recruited to engage in scholarly, heritage, educational, environmental, and economic-development activities. Remote users of ACOR's services are engaged as practically able.

### **Pillar V: Supporting Our Future Needs**

The American Center of Research has the necessary financial, human, and other resources to thrive in pursuit of its mission. Diverse public, governmental, and private stakeholders are sought, encouraged, and developed in North America, Jordan, and elsewhere.



## Advancing knowledge of Jordan and the interconnected region, past and present.

We warmly invite you to join us in carrying forth this mission. Please learn more about our current initiatives and how you can become a supporter at [acorjordan.org](http://acorjordan.org). To receive electronic and print newsletters, input your preferred address at [acorjordan.org/mailling-list](http://acorjordan.org/mailling-list). You can also find us across social media platforms.

Thank you for organizing and leading season one at Abdoun South. [...] I really enjoyed all of it. The digging, the explanations, the friendly welcoming atmosphere [...] I have [...] only encouragement and praise. I personally loved to be involved hands-on in digging and I learnt a lot about the process of doing it. So, a big thank you for making this experience available to the community. I hope to be able to volunteer again next season.

—Jesús D., Abdoun Community Archaeology Project volunteer

I would like to thank you for the amazing experience at the Abdoun South Site. What a wonderful community experience, meeting great people, learning and increasing my knowledge. Your explanations, your knowledge, your patience and professionalism is much appreciated. I look forward to any future projects. This is a wonderful experience to learn, connect and share knowledge. I am grateful for the amazing experience.

—Sharné P., Abdoun Community Archaeology Project volunteer

Thank you for the beautiful and useful experience in Khirbet Abdoun. For me, it was a wonderful experience [...]. It added new information to me and I got to know new people. Thank you, Dr. Ahmed, for your good manners and for the useful information you provided to us. I hope to participate with you in the coming times and work with you on a new project.

—Taghreed M. A., Abdoun Community Archaeology Project volunteer



*Trained volunteers surveying with an optical level for the Abdoun Community Archaeology Project.*