



ACOR
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المركز الأمريكي للأبحاث
AMERICAN CENTER OF RESEARCH
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA | AMMAN, JORDAN

Annual Report 2021

October 1, 2020–
December 31, 2021

Jordan Office:

8 Rashid Al Abadle Tla'a Ali, Amman 11181, Jordan
P.O. Box 2470, Amman 11181, Jordan
962-6-534-6117

U.S. Office:

209 Commerce St, Alexandria, VA 22314-2909 USA
1-703-789-9231

acorjordan.org
acor@acorjordan.org

OUR MISSION

Established in 1968, the American Center of Research (ACOR) is an international, non-profit academic institution, which advances understanding of Jordan and the 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.



The American Center of Research building during renovations [p. 3], as seen from the site of Khirbet Salameh, where a late Roman/ Byzantine and Umayyad farmstead once stood. In 2021, SCHEP [p. 7] undertook risk mitigation and survey here and is preparing interpretation for visitors. (Photo by Abed Al Fattah Ghareeb.)



Pearce Paul Creasman
Executive Director

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fiscal year 2021 was a transformative one for us. In the literal sense, we saw major renovations to the center in Amman completed after years of planning and nearly eighteen months of physical works. The renovated center is more efficient, brighter, and better equipped to serve our staff, colleagues, visitors, and residents than ever before. For the time when in-person events do return (mid- to late 2022, we hope), we have vastly improved spaces for socializing, building and renewing friendships, and bringing together all of those in pursuit of knowledge.

We know that being pressed into digital, or “virtual,” events by the pandemic changed one of the things that people enjoyed most about ACOR: the comradery of gathering for our lectures. However, we have used this as an opportunity to considerably enhance our impact. With our lecture series going online, it has reached thousands of individuals and institutions, and in more formats than ever, including live dual English/Arabic translations and subtitles for improved accessibility. For those who cannot join us in Amman, we intend to keep this bridge open when we return to in-person events.

The fiscal year was transformative in other ways, too. For example, this fiscal year spanned fifteen months, from October 1, 2020, to December 31, 2021, reflecting an administrative change to match our fiscal years going forward with the calendar years. During this time, our endowments saw significant growth, which we hope will serve us well in the future. As in each of the past few years, we likewise saw significant continued growth this year in terms of annual expenditures, grant expenditures, and thus enhanced ability to pursue our mission.

Perhaps most importantly, after much consideration, in November 2021 the Board of Trustees updated our mission statement (above) and strategic plan to carry us into the future. With the continued support of our donors, friends, colleagues, and staff, 2022 is poised to be our most impactful year yet.

Thank you for all you do to help us make it so.

Front cover: The Treasury in Petra, 1990. Digitized slide from the Jane Taylor collection.

Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property Project



Jordan is rich in archaeological and natural sites that form an essential part of the history and heritage of many peoples. This cultural heritage constitutes national wealth, so it is necessary to take concrete actions to preserve and protect it from threats such as illegal excavations and illicit trafficking. To achieve this goal, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the United States of America and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on December 16, 2019. Invoking the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, to which both countries are party, the memorandum aims to reduce the incentive to pillage and export the irreplaceable archaeological material that represents Jordan's cultural heritage.



Antiquities in a Department of Antiquities storehouse, 2021. Artifacts such as these—portable, attractive, and interesting—are at risk of being looted from archaeological sites and sold to collectors around the world. (Photo by Yaser Hashim.)

Within this framework and thanks to a fund offered by the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Amman, and with the collaboration of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities (DoA), the American Center of Research's Prevention of Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property project was launched in September 2021. The project goal is to fight illicit trafficking and enhance national and international efforts to preserve and protect cultural heritage. It concentrates on fighting illicit trafficking in cultural property and supporting the anti-smuggling/anti-trafficking section of the Department of Antiquities. The project has assessed the situation in Jordan to understand the existing shortcomings and to be able to work to overcome them. Training courses in fighting illicit trafficking are being designed and organized to satisfy the needs and raise the capacity of Department of Antiquities employees. The courses cover all aspects of preventing illicit trafficking of cultural property, starting with monitoring sites and ending with preparing a repatriation request for an artifact. The project will create a manual that will be made available for future training courses. So that the DoA has current tools to achieve its goals, the project supplies equipment such as software, cameras, color palettes, scales, and computers.

In the future, implementation of a central database with a platform for recording all artifacts, accessible from different locations throughout Jordan, is planned. A barcode system for artifacts in the DoA "confiscated materials" warehouse will be created. This step will improve the database and will facilitate the logging and tracking of recovered artifacts. Another feature of the project is the creation of a network of specialists—in cultural heritage, archaeology, anthropology, and illicit trafficking—who will collaborate to help identify, report, and track stolen artifacts.

Finally, the project does not ignore the importance of public awareness. It supports initiatives that help make communities aware of illicit trafficking in cultural property and the essential role that cultural heritage plays in today's life.

Links:

Signing of the U.S.-Jordan Cultural Property Agreement:
<https://jo.usembassy.gov/signing-of-the-u-s-jordan-cultural-property-agreement/>

The UNESCO 1970 Convention:
<https://en.unesco.org/fighttrafficking/197>

Renovation of the Center

After a two-year-long renovation agreement funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the United Nations Offices for Project Services (UNOPS), we formally completed the renovations to the center on December 30, 2021. The work upgraded the facility with attention to safety and security, disability access, and gender sensitivity, and it upgraded technological aspects to reduce operating costs. A reopening celebration will be held sometime in the future when the pandemic eases, but even before then we welcome everyone back whenever you might be in Amman.

The library, ready to receive patrons once again. (Photo by Abed Al Fattah Ghareeb.)



Library and Archive

Library staff have been hard at work supporting researchers remotely through the global COVID-19 pandemic and renovations to the building. A handful of residents and fellows used the library and selected resources in person during FY 2021. The ACOR Digital Archive also generated a fair amount of traffic, receiving 3,725 visitors to the site.

During the renovations, library and archive staff quickly and competently moved archival holdings, scanning equipment, light tables, and supplies between multiple offices three times thanks to good organization and hard work. The two floors of the library have undergone changes, including adding more compact shelving, more open space, and a study nook. The ACOR Digital Archive project supported by a U.S. Department of Education grant began in March 2021 and will continue until 2024; during FY 2021, 8,470 35 mm slides from the Barbara A. Porter collection depicting Jordan, Syria, and other MENA (Middle East and North Africa) countries were digitized and described. We are excited to make these materials accessible in the near future.



Abed Adawi and Samya Kafafi during renovations in February 2021 in the upper library. (Photo by Abed Al Fattah Ghareeb.)



In July 2021, Ryder Kouba joined the American Center as librarian and archivist, having previously worked at the University of Hong Kong and the American University in Cairo. He is excited to be helping renovate the library and archives in order to give visitors access as well as overseeing the Title VI grant project.

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

Based on the success of the 2016–2020 ACOR Photo Archive Project, which digitized and made available online

30,000 images covering thirteen countries across the Middle East and North Africa, the U.S. Department of Education has awarded ACOR an American Overseas Research Center (AORC) Title VI grant for a new project, “ACOR Digital Archive: Developing a Multimedia Teaching and Learning Resource.”

The ACOR Digital Archive will make over 18,000 digital objects freely available, including archival materials now stored on legacy media formats—such as Betamax and VHS—which will be shared openly online for the first time. Our archives include rare audio and video recordings of lectures stretching back to the 1980s, as well as photos and other documents relating to landmark excavations, such as the Petra Church Project. With this grant, we will engage U.S. educators of diverse backgrounds with the possibilities offered by our rich archival resources.



Scanned photographic slide from the Barbara A. Porter collection: View inside Al-Madina Souq, Aleppo, Syria, early 2000s.

OUR STAFF (December 2021)

Staff

Executive Director	Pearce Paul Creasman, PhD
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Associate Director for Projects	Jehad Haron
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Housekeeping Supervisor	Ayman Abdullah
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Human Resources Manager	Lina Shara'an
Librarian & Archivist	Ryder Kouba
Project Archivist	Arzaq Abu Eid
Project Director	Ahmad Kzzo, PhD
IT Specialist	Ashraf Al Daraweesh

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Deputy Chief of Party—Institutional Lead	Hanadi Al Taher
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Archival Project Assistant	Nora Al Omari
CHR Field Manager	Hisham Al Majali
Communications Manager	Shatha Abu Aballi
Communications Specialist	Amal AL Faouri
Creative Producer & Editor	Abed Al Fatah Ghareeb
Institutional Development Coordinator	Farah Abu Naser
Marketing and Promotion Officer	Dina Al Majali
Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist	Zaid Kashour



Staff at the Treasury in Petra during an outing to Petra and Wadi Rum, October 6–7, 2021. (Photo by P. P. Creasman.)

By the Numbers

During the period of October 1, 2020–December 31, 2021:

- ◇ We awarded **22 fellowships and scholarships**, including **4 to Jordanians**.
- ◇ We held **12 public lectures**, enjoyed by more than **4,000 attendees**, among them academics, students, diplomats, heritage professionals, and interested members of the public.
- ◇ Our digital archive received **5,758 online visitors**.
- ◇ The library and archive staff **digitized 12,158 images**.
- ◇ There were **36,096 images** in the ACOR Digital Archive.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (JUNE 2021)



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Trustee 1988–2018

The Sustainable Cultural Heritage through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP), funded by USAID and implemented by the American Center of Research, carried out significant programming and made progress toward project goals. A grants program was a primary focus for SCHEP in FY 2021: 20 grants were awarded, and activities engaged 178 Jordanian students, young professionals, community members, and employees in the heritage and tourism sectors (57% women) in SCHEP workshops and training courses this year. The 2021 grants program resulted in the creation of 133 better employment opportunities, 40% of them for women.



*Performance of traditional songs in Jerash.
(Photo by Abed Al Fattah Ghareeb.)*

Grants Program

Under the grants program, 20 organizations and individuals covering 10 themes were supported:

- ◇ Museums: rehabilitation of museums at the University of Jordan and Hussein Bin Talal University; a study for a natural heritage museum in Petra
- ◇ Intangible heritage: documentation of traditional Jordanian dishes, traditional songs in Jerash, and local phrases and proverbs related to maritime heritage in Aqaba
- ◇ Publications: atlas of the snakes of Jordan; documentation of floors and panels in Madaba; documentation of World Heritage Sites in Jordan; the pottery of Jordan manual
- ◇ Tourism experiences: Aqaba Dog Shelter; Aqabawi Kitchen; Ashrafyeh Heritage Trail; String Art Experience; developing the capacities of Al-Smakieh Association in Karak and the Busayra Cultural Heritage Foundation
- ◇ Research and studies: cultural heritage studies for undergraduate students in Jordanian universities; conservation guidelines; new antiquities law; guidelines for safe tourism

Site Development

- ◇ Rehabilitation of two cultural heritage sites: the Amman Citadel and Khirbet Salameh
- ◇ The Siq Maintenance Project in Petra

Support Jordan's World Heritage Sites Management

- ◇ Documentation of archaeological elements in Wadi Rum
- ◇ Heritage and Environmental Impact Assessment in World Heritage (HIA-EIA) for Wadi Rum
- ◇ Documentation of more than 12 major archaeological sites using drones
- ◇ Online scholarships program with Oxford University



Aqabawi Kitchen cooking experience with USAID team members, Aqaba. (Photo by Abed Al Fattah Ghareeb.)

Networking and Knowledge Sharing

- ◇ Jordan Cultural Heritage Portal

Enhanced Career Development

- ◇ Two interns at the Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS)

Capacity-Building Courses and Programs

- ◇ Women's Leadership in World Heritage Sites at Wadi Rum
- ◇ Online scholarships program with Oxford University, including Introducing Mapping, Spatial Data and GIS (Online), Archaeology in Practice II, and Islamic Art and Architecture
- ◇ Safety and Health Measures/COVID-19
- ◇ Pottery of Jordan I and II

Tourism Promotion

- ◇ Visit Safi and Aqabawi websites
- ◇ Product development in Busayra
- ◇ Edom Trail in Busayra

Fellowships Awarded for 2021–2022

National Endowment for the Humanities Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

- ◇ **Samer Ali** (Middle East Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), “Arabo-Islamic Humanities in Tenth-Century Iraq: Expressive Culture and Nonviolent Transformation”
- ◇ **David Graf** (Religious Studies, University of Miami, Miami), “In Pursuit of Nabataea: Reassessing the Arabian Kingdom”

ACOR-CAORC Postdoctoral Fellowship

- ◇ **Andrew Danielson** (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles), “Edomite Identity and Authority: Negotiating Power and Place along the Incense Road”
- ◇ **Kathryn Grossman** (Anthropology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh), “Animal Lives at Petra: Analysis of the Zooarchaeological Remains from the Temple of the Winged Lions and the Petra North Ridge Project”

ACOR-CAORC Predoctoral Fellowship

- ◇ **Allison Anderson** (International Studies, University of Washington), “Seeing the Invisible Economy Online: Women’s Entrepreneurship in Jordan”
- ◇ **Felicia V. De Peña** (Archaeology/Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley), “Communities of Practice at the Epipalaeolithic Site of Kharaneh IV: Knowledge Transmission and Skill Level Analysis”
- ◇ **Jordan Dopp** (Ancient Art, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia), “The Long Antiquity: An Archival Study of Unpublished Wall Paintings in Nabataea, 1st Century BCE–2nd Century CE”
- ◇ **Kendra Kintzi** (Sociology, Cornell University, Ithaca), “Glittering Metropolis: Renewable Energy, Smart Grids, and Life beyond Oil in Jordan”
- ◇ **Lauren Erker** (Islamic Archaeology, University of Bonn; Bonn), “Diverging Paths: A Socio-archaeological Investigation of Rural Settlement in Ottoman Palestine and Transjordan”
- ◇ **Mathew Madain** (History, University of Oxford; Oxford), “From Frontier to Emirate: Society and Inter-religious Relations in Ottoman Transjordan, 1516–1923”
- ◇ **Keegan Terek** (Anthropology, Northwestern University), “Linguistic Entailments of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Asylum in Amman, Jordan”



Hisban North Church excavation, fall 2021. (Photo by Nick Cox.)

“My time here at ACOR has been nothing short of wonderful. I’ve been provided with crucial funding as well as an environment where I can focus exclusively on my research. Being in Jordan has of course also given me the opportunity to visit the archaeological sites included in my project, not to mention the invaluable cultural experience that comes with living in this uniquely amazing country. I could not be more grateful to the ACOR funding committee, Pearce Paul, and Helen Malko for their support in the endeavor of this project.”

—Lauren Erker, 2021 ACOR-CAORC Predoctoral Fellow

Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship

- ◇ **Sofia Thatharopoulou** (History and Archaeology, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki), “The Architecture of Christian Communities in the Holy Land and Palestine after the 6th Century”

Harrell Family Fellowship

- ◇ **Charlotte Vekemans** (Political Science, Ghent University, Ghent), “Shaping the Past Through Heritage Development in Southern Jordan”

Kenneth W. Russell Memorial Fellowship

- ◇ **Sara Knutson** (Anthropology/Archaeology, University of California, Berkeley), “Pieces of Change: Uncovering the Networks of Arabic Coins that Transformed Ancient Global Interactions”

Burton MacDonald and Rosemarie Sampson Fellowship

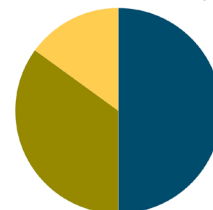
- ◇ **Caitlin Craig** (Anthropology, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC), “Extended Geoarchaeological Survey of the Azraq Region”

Lawrence T. Geraty Travel Scholarship

- ◇ **Britta Wagner** (Islamic Archaeology, University of Bonn, Bonn), “Tall Hisban/Madaba Plains Project”

Fellowships Awarded for 2021–2022, continued

North America
Jordan
Europe



Jordanian Graduate Student Scholarship

- ◇ Reham Abdallah (Sustainable Tourism, Hashemite University, Zarqa), "New Tourist Path in Zarqa Governorate"
- ◇ Abdelrahman Alsaleh (Applied Geology, Yarmouk University, Irbid), "Integrated Hyperspectral and Multispectral Remote Sensing Techniques for Mapping Soils in North Jordan"
- ◇ Yousef Al-Jarrah (Epigraphy, Yarmouk University, Irbid), "Ancient North Arabian Thamudic E Inscriptions from Wadi Hafir—Southern Jordan"
- ◇ Hala Samara (Architectural Conservation, German Jordanian University, Amman), "Conservation Management Plan for Ajloun's Historic City Core: Adopting a Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) Approach"

James A. Sauer Fellowship

- ◇ Cariman Sobablan (Archaeology, Cairo University, Cairo), "Medical Performs and Magic in the North Arabian Communities as Attested in North Arabian Resources (Inscriptions and Rock Drawings Until the End of the 5th Century A.D.)"

Frederick-Wenger Memorial Jordanian Educational Fellowship

- ◇ Razan Ahmad (Library and Information Science, University of Jordan, Amman)
- ◇ Sally Muaffaq Hazza Alkhdair (History, Al Albayt University, Mafrq)

Career Acceleration Project for Creative Designers



EDU-SYRIA
A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

nuffic
meet the world

COVID-19 has reshaped our vision of the world, and it has not only forced us to pivot our lifestyle but also accelerated existing trends in remote working, widening the possibilities for employment opportunities. With national institutions and corporations directing their work and services online, this project aimed to equip Syrian refugees and underprivileged Jordanians with the tools and skills needed to provide them with a chance for work opportunities that are not limited by geographic location.

Career Acceleration Project for Creative Designers, supported and funded by the European Union, EDU-Syria, Nuffic, and Edu-Trans, and implemented by The American Center of Research, was started in 2021 to widen the beneficiaries' perspectives on the new digital economy and to help them reach online opportunities at national and global levels. Through the four phases of the project, participants built their capacities in soft and technical skills, promoted their creative work professionally, and gained access to an engaging and inspiring environment to help jump start and advance their careers.

The project consisted of four stages. The first phase began with a committee selecting, from the large pool of applicants, 100 individuals to receive a report on the analysis of their application and portfolio. The second phase provided career coaching and training in communication and other soft skills for 40 chosen from these 100. The trainers assessed their portfolios and designated 17 participants who would receive further training. The third phase of the project provided these 17 individuals with technical training in visualization and design programs (animation and architectural visualization programs, Adobe software, etc.), English-language skills, and project-management and entrepreneurship skills. The fourth and final phase of the project allowed participants to serve as interns at organizations and thus benefit from additional perspectives on how to use their skills in new and in-demand fields, such as ecotourism, development of digital educational tools, and interpretation and visualization for heritage sites. These organizations include:

- ◇ Al-Fanar Printing Press
- ◇ American Center of Research (USAID SCHEP)
- ◇ Collateral Repair Project
- ◇ Department of Antiquities of Jordan
- ◇ E3lanation
- ◇ Galaxy Organization
- ◇ ICOMOS Jordan
- ◇ National Aid Fun
- ◇ Petra National Trust
- ◇ Pioneers Academy
- ◇ The National Center for Culture and Arts
- ◇ Wajih Samara Engineering Office
- ◇ Zakat Fund



Second-phase
training session.
(Photo by Arthur
Tainturier; ©
EDUSYRIA-Nuffic.)

Publications

Zoara, the Southern Ghor of Jordan: A Guide to Landscape and Heritage of the Lowest Place on Earth



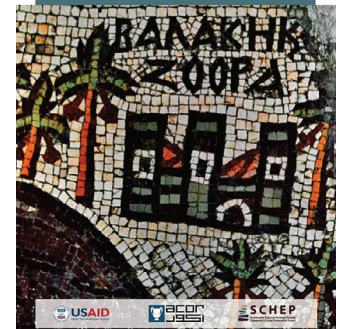
A rich guidebook introducing readers to the environment and heritage of the Southern Ghor of Jordan. Published in November 2020, *Zoara, the Southern Ghor of Jordan: A Guide to the Landscape and Heritage of the Lowest Place on Earth* by Konstantinos D. Politis introduces the reader to the environment and history of Zoara and illustrates what people today are doing to preserve this unique Jordanian treasure. A copy may be downloaded from our website: publications.acorjordan.org/books/zoara-the-southern-ghor-of-jordan.

Archaeology in Jordan 2

The second volume of this open-access biennial journal was published in November 2020. Featuring reports on the 2018–2019 field seasons of more than 50 projects undertaken throughout Jordan, it can be downloaded from the website: publications.acorjordan.org/volumes.

Zoara, the Southern Ghor of Jordan:

A Guide to the Landscape and Heritage of the Lowest Place on Earth
by Konstantinos D. Politis



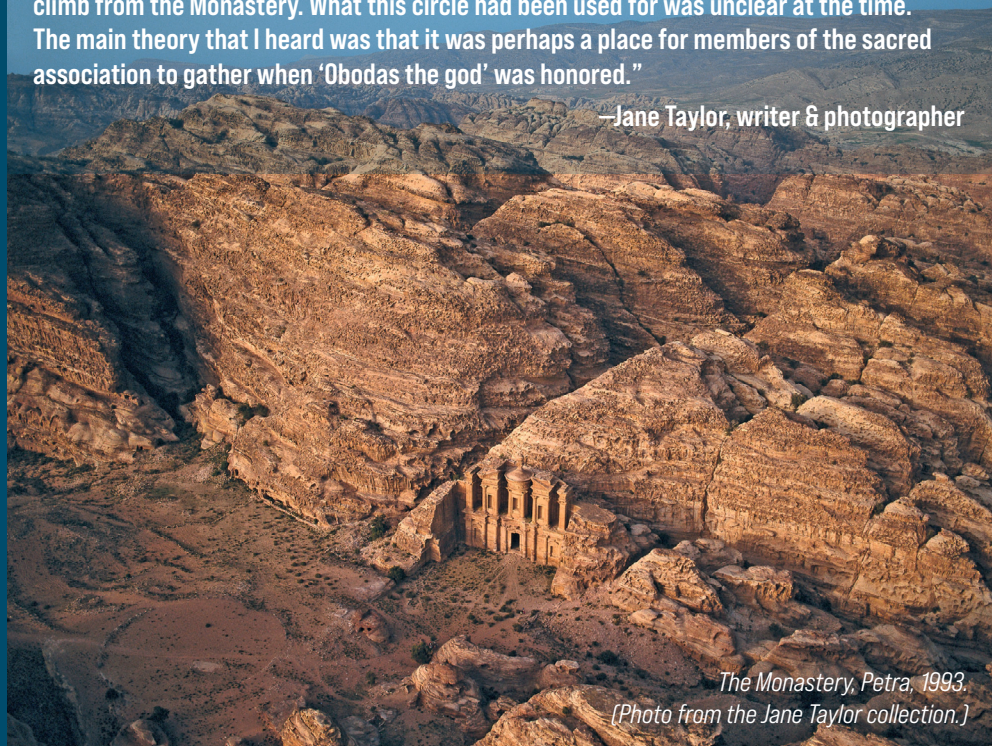
Insights

In 2020, the American Center's blog was renamed *Insights* (publications.acorjordan.org/insights), and since then it has continued to host essays by fellows, seminar participants, and staff, as well as announcements of videos of recorded lectures and panel discussions. Among the many posts to appear in *Insights* in FY 2021 were:

"My Petra"

"It wasn't until 1993, when I was doing some aerial photography for my next book (on the Nabataeans), that I noticed a very large feature near the Monastery and wondered how I hadn't spotted it before. From the air a large circle was clearly visible on a flat area a short climb from the Monastery. What this circle had been used for was unclear at the time. The main theory that I heard was that it was perhaps a place for members of the sacred association to gather when 'Obodas the god' was honored."

—Jane Taylor, writer & photographer



The Monastery, Petra, 1993.
(Photo from the Jane Taylor collection.)

"Arabic In Practice: From Jordan to the Web"

"In a typical year, as an academic center in Amman, ACOR buzzes with the speech of Arabic-language enthusiasts. Study-abroad students chat while flipping through vocabulary flashcards in our library. Researchers debate historical periodization or academic terminology, and international archaeologists in our hostel exchange ideas with tourism professionals. All throughout, new ideas—meaning new terminology, new grammars, and new rhetorical and intellectual frameworks within and across languages—are circulating in robust discussion at ACOR."

—Jacqueline Salzinger,
then ACOR Development &
Communications Officer

Publications, continued

“Ask a Scholar: Prof. Waleed Hazbun”

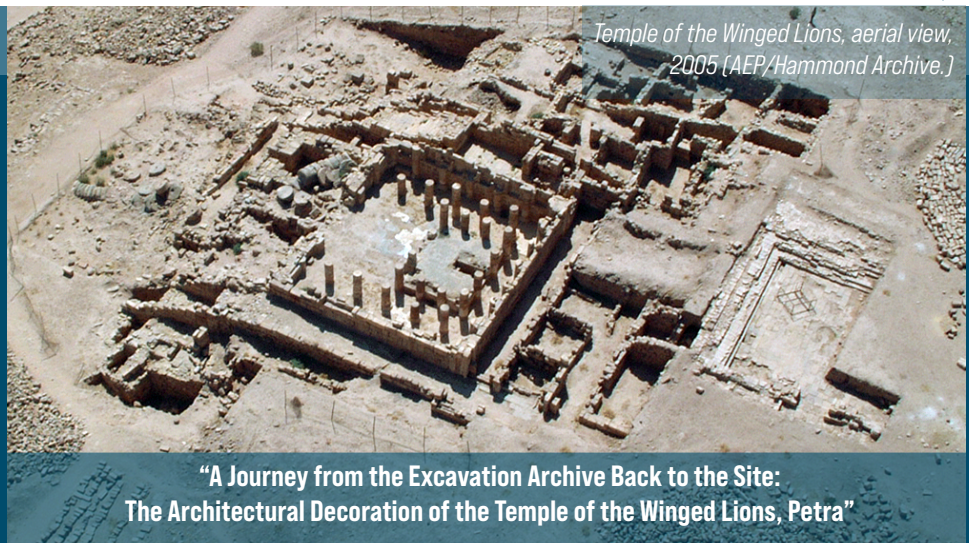
“It was while walking around Wadi Musa with ACOR fellow Najib Hourani that I formed ideas about the relationship between transnational flows and local territorial control that became the basis of the theoretical approach presented in my dissertation, which compared the cases of Tunisia and Jordan, and I later developed in my book that the university press decided to title *Beaches, Ruins, Resorts*.”

—Waleed Hazbun, professor of political science, University of Alabama & former ACOR-United States Information Agency Fellow (1997–1998)

“Reflections on Race at the Lowest Place on Earth”

“It is in this context [of the pandemic and BLM movement] that I have taken the time to reflect on my time in Jordan as an African American who is fluent in Swahili and has lived, worked, and studied in various parts of the world, most especially Africa and the Middle East. Consider this essay a kind of alternate perspective on an issue of Black Lives: the diverse nature and experiences of people of African descent in one small area of the Middle East, the Ghawr region of the Jordan Valley in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. This issue is complicated by notions of how Jordanians of African descent—the Ghawrani—choose to identify themselves (Curtis 2012)—which is not necessarily how an African American like me might choose to identify them.”

—Blaine Pope, PhD,
“Sustainability at the Margins”
ACOR-CAORC Faculty Development
Seminar participant



“... it was quite challenging to plan the documentation campaign in Petra. But the overall situation in the winter of 2021 also meant that I was able to enjoy the rare experience of being almost completely alone in Petra and, in addition to the work, being able to enjoy the incredible landscape at my leisure. [...] It quickly became clear that a comprehensive redocumentation of the components in the area of the TWL was essential.”

—Marco Dehner, ACOR TWL Publication Fellow

Temple of the Winged Lions Publication Project

In September 2021, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded a grant of almost \$200,000 to then associate director John D. M. Green, executive director Pearce Paul Creasman, and grants support and publications specialist Noreen Doyle for the Temple of the Winged Lions Publication Project. These funds will help support the writing of the volume, which will be the final publication of excavations stretching back to 1974, first by the American Expedition to Petra (1974–2005) and subsequently by the American Center of Research’s Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management project (2009–2018). More than twenty scholars are contributing their expertise, on a great diversity of subjects that includes, among many others, architectural decoration, coins, and graffiti.



One the most distinctive objects found at the TWL: the “Goddess of Hayyan” stela. Her identity is disputed. (Photo from the Jane Taylor collection.)



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

Best known and named for its distinctive column capitals, the “TWL,” as it is often called, was built in Petra by the Nabataeans early in the 1st century CE. Understanding the temple is vital to understanding Petra—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—and the Nabataeans, as well as the broader world around them. For more about this fascinating temple and its excavations, visit acorjordan.org/temple-of-the-winged-lions-introduction.

Donations, FY 2021

In FY 2021, ACOR received donations from 353 individuals. We are grateful for our wide circle of supporters and their generosity. For information on how you can support us, please see acorjordan.org/donate.

Many donations were made in memory or in honor of others. For complete details, see newsletters 32.2, 33.1, and 33.2.

\$5,000 and above

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Tina Greene
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Rowan
Øystein and Asta LaBianca
Nancy L. Lapp
Albert Leonard. Jr.
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Suzanne Richard
Peter and Sylvia Sauer
Susan Sauer
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Claus Gielisch
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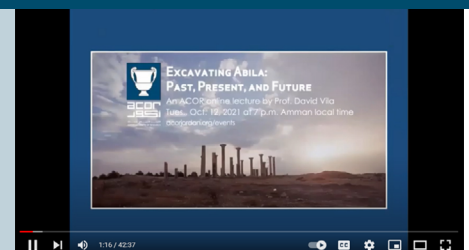
Monique Roddy
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 Calvin Community Symphony through the
 auspices of Susan Stoddard
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 Jill Zahner
 David Zonderman
 Nicola R. Zwaschka and William L. Kledas

Engagement



Our work has carried on through the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting in-person and remote activities that bring people together.

Left: Friends of Archaeology and Heritage (FoAH) activity, supported through SCHEP.
 Right: Online lecture by Prof. David Vila of John Brown University.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Year Ended December 31, 2021*	Year Ended September 30, 2020
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	244,489	381,629
Investments	8,965,360	7,265,612
Grants remaining (unspent amounts)	1,994,262	3,894,101
Other current assets	<u>237,144</u>	<u>267,360</u>
Total current assets	<u>11,441,255</u>	<u>11,808,702</u>
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	<u>487,353</u>	<u>526,350</u>
Total assets	<u>11,928,608</u>	<u>12,335,052</u>
Liabilities		
Total liabilities	<u>132,391</u>	<u>150,731</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	7,609,734	6,261,071
Temporarily restricted (including Grants remaining)	2,486,110	4,309,403
Permanently restricted	<u>1,700,373</u>	<u>1,613,847</u>
Total net assets	<u>11,796,217</u>	<u>12,184,321</u>

INCOME POSITION

	Year Ended December 31, 2021*	Year Ended September 30, 2020
Income		
Grants revenues	2,827,403	1,717,082
Contributions	340,282	234,873
Local revenues	138,613	61,822
Investment income	1,989,367	426,572
Other	<u>12,949</u>	<u>40,494</u>
Total revenues	5,308,614	2,480,843
Expenses		
Grants expenses	(1,971,273)	(1,172,774)
Occupancy	(124,740)	(75,147)
Management and general expenses	(1,352,663)	(920,707)
Depreciation	(79,091)	(73,312)
Fundraising and program development	<u>(89,319)</u>	<u>(85,445)</u>
Total expenses	(3,617,086)	(2,327,385)
Surplus/(shortfall) for the year	1,691,528	153,458
Surplus/(shortfall) for the year excluding unrealized investment and depreciation	(6,098)	(487,490)

*FY 2021 is 15 months (October 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021)

STRATEGIC PILLARS

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.



*The Amman Citadel in spring,
(Photo by P. P. Creasman.)*

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. To receive electronic and print newsletters, input your preferred address at acorjordan.org/mailling-list. You can also find us across social media platforms.

“Planning and implementing ACOR’s public programs has been a rewarding experience. It is a pleasure to see the cultural and educational diversity this program brings to scholars and public audiences from Jordan, the region, and around the world. I look forward to restarting our in-person programs and to welcoming our broad audience to the new ACOR.”

—Helen Malko, Associate Director
for Fellowships & Programming

“Working on ACOR’s projects and initiatives always inspires me to search for creative ideas and keep myself self-challenged to maintain the professional and scientific level that ACOR has reached in various fields.”

—Jehad Haron, Associate Director
for Projects

“Everything that the American Center of Research does to achieve its goals involves, at some level, the written word: grant proposals, essays, academic articles, published volumes, and so much more. Being able to put my editorial and publishing skills and knowledge to work for this organization—and for Jordan and the wider region—is a genuine privilege.”

—Noreen Doyle, Assistant Director
for Publications & Grants

“USAID has supported over 40 projects and publications that have been developed and implemented by the ACOR/SCHEP team. These initiatives promoted small businesses and job creation, tourism and economic development, site development, capacity building and promoted youth cultural awareness. ACOR/SCHEP is providing a lasting legacy for generations of Jordanians.”

—John Shearman, SCHEP Chief of Party

“While the past year has seen challenges, the library and archives team did a great job continuing to support users and made great progress on our Title VI grant. We all moved more boxes and reshelfed enough books for a lifetime, but we’re excited the library is accessible again.”

—Ryder Kouba, Librarian & Archivist

The Amman Citadel Project/Southern Foothill Project, supported by the American Center of Research’s USAID-funded Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project, August 2021. [See p. 3.] (Photo by Abed Al Fatah Ghareeb.)