

ACOR Newsletter

أخبار أكور



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Tall Hisban, 2004: An Investigation into Medieval Rural History

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View of the storeroom complex in Field L facing southwest. The arch over the doorway was reconstructed at the end of the 2004 season.



The doorway of the Field C farmhouse, facing west. Ethnographic parallels suggest that the overburden above the doorway was deliberately laid as part of the structural support of the original barrel vault.

In an effort to document the settlement history of a medieval village through the Middle and Late Islamic periods and into the modern period, Andrews University, with the collaboration of students and faculty from Oklahoma State University and Calvin College, conducted its third field season of Phase II operations at Tall Hisban from May 24 to June 23, 2004.¹ Last summer, the project operated within a political ecological research framework, which combines archaeological and archival research with the purpose of describing the multi-layered relationships between the imperial state and village and between the village and its rural neighbors in control over and management of land and agricultural markets. The 2004 season focused on four fields that promised to yield data on the physical development of the Mamluk and Ottoman village; **physical transformation of the local landscape** in this period; long-term effects of Mamluk and Ottoman land management on the local environment; and political and economic relationships between the village and the Egyptian state in the fourteenth century. Four fields were excavated simultaneously, in addition to a concurrent walking **survey** of the Wadi Majarr and ethnographic and **architectural** surveys in the modern village.

All four excavation fields produced excellent architectural documentation for the development of the medieval village through the nineteenth century. Excavation continued this season in Field L in the southwest corner of the summit of the tell, which was opened in 1998 and further explored in 2001. Field L is the location of the storeroom of a large, formal, multi-room structure of the Mamluk period, identified by our team as the residence of the governor of the Balqa district, which is attested in contemporary Arabic sources. The storeroom, the flagstone floor of which was reached in 2001, yielded thousands of sherds and nearly complete vessels, largely sugar jars and specialized glazed wares, which have since been studied, repaired, their inscriptions translated and published, and returned to the Amman and Madaba

museums, where they are on display. The storeroom was later used as a cemetery, presumably by a Bedouin tribe in the nineteenth century.²

In 2004, the field was extended 5 m to the south in order to explore the architectural relationship between the storeroom and the defensive wall and to identify stratigraphically secure, Middle Islamic deposits. A complete floor plan of the southern end of the complex emerged: the storeroom opened to the east, its doorway opening into a small hallway, which turned 90 degrees south into a high-vaulted hallway; this hallway, in turn, led to the southernmost defensive wall and a narrow walkway running parallel to it. This hallway gave access at its westernmost end to a small, plastered and barrel-vaulted square room of approximately 4 x 4 m. To its immediate right was another room, of the same scale and construction, with no doorways or windows extant. Three different periods of construction were documented architecturally and through the ceramic record, which spanned the thirteenth, fourteenth, and early fifteenth centuries A.D.

In the 1970s, in its Phase I operations at the site, Andrews University opened a long trench along the western slope of the tell, as Field C, to acquire a deep, stratigraphic section for the entire site. The Mamluk village that was identified then was not fully explored. This season we returned to Field C in order to explore the extent and settlement history of this part of medieval Hisban. The western slope, which undulates with a series of largely collapsed barrel vaults, seemed very promising to an investigation of village history.



Northeast-facing view of the Field O farmhouse, southwest corner. The purpose of the high stone platform built against the exterior face of the farmhouse is not clear. To the right of this platform, and not visible in the photo, is the outdoor courtyard.

The partially visible arched doorway of a large masonry structure was the focus of four squares laid in this field in 2004. In five weeks, we uncovered most of the remains of this structure, which was a heavily-constructed, single-room, barrel-vaulted building that was 11 m long. The form of the structure, its location, and the associated small finds (horseshoes, water jars and cook pots, stone horse tethers, and

grinding stones) suggest it was a stable or farmhouse (or both). Although the doorway and upper levels had been vandalized, the remaining strata and beaten earth floors were untouched, giving us a stratigraphically secure sequence of Byzantine, Umayyad, Mamluk, and Ottoman/Mandate-period occupation. The Byzantine farmhouse made use of a cistern 2 m in



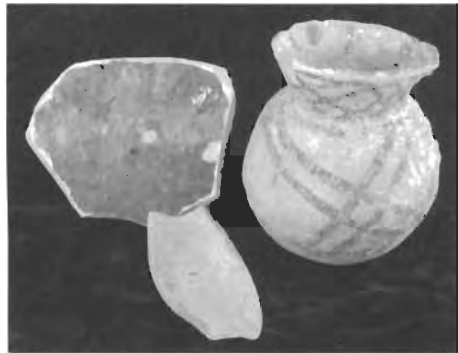
The Roman industrial press (right foreground) of Field M was later covered by walls belonging to a barrel-vaulted structure of the Mamluk period (center foreground).

front of its doorway. During reoccupation of the building in the Mamluk period, the doorway was blocked and plastered over, leaving a space only in its upper courses; the interior space was divided into two rooms by walls. A large quantity of vessels used for food preparation and storage indicates domestic use. At some point in recent history (the nineteenth or early twentieth century), the structure was reused as a stable, as indicated by the many horseshoes and tethers. The structure was extended to the west – a long wall of seven courses preserved height but of unknown purpose was built – and the easternmost room was apparently used for industrial activity. The southern wall of this latter room had been removed to give better access to the cistern; the room, moreover, included an olive oil settling basin and several large triangular stones with perforations cut in the form of press weights.

This building was rich in small finds: in addition to a wide range of medieval glazed and unglazed wares, the field produced a large quantity of glass, metal fragments, and a glazed firing tripod – the first positive evidence at Tall Hisban in over thirty years of local ceramic manufacture. Mortar and plaster samples were taken for palynological analysis, to reconstruct environmental and agricultural history at the site, a method that has been applied with success at Malka in 2003. The pollen work will be done at Oklahoma State University.

One new field was opened this season: Field O, located at the bottom of the southwest slope of the tell. This field was chosen to investigate the early history of the modern village, as a test trench in 2001 uncovered a large, square, stone

doorway and produced many sherds of the Mamluk and post-Mamluk periods. The four 5 x 5 m squares of this field uncovered a largely complete, heavily-built, single-room, single-floor, barrel-vaulted structure and its forecourt. The building measures 9.6 x 6.2 m and is enclosed by 1.5 m thick walls that are preserved to a height of eight courses in many places. A grain bin was constructed within the thickness of the building's western wall, on its interior face (an installation locally called a *qiwara*). The area in front of the door had a



Sherds and a vessel from the upper strata of Field M. The corpus, comprised of Monochrome Glazed and Hand-made Geometric-Painted Wares, is late Mamluk to early Ottoman in date.

beaten earth floor and was divided into smaller spaces by less substantial walls, arguably used as an outdoor courtyard and seasonal stable. On the basis of architectural parallels in the Madaba and Kerak Plains, the Wadi Majarr, and

northern Jordan, a preliminary date of mid-nineteenth century has been assigned to this structure. If the date proves true, this part of the site may have been the original location of the



Site 006, Feature 4: The largest of the grain mills recorded on the Wadi Majarr-Hisban survey is Sultan Mill, as it is known locally, which remained in use until the 1950s, when diesel-powered presses replaced the traditional water-driven technology.

modern village of Hisban. Such an interpretation is supported by systematic interviews with the oldest residents of the village and an architectural survey of the Nabulsi *qasr*, a farmhouse with *malafa* constructed in the 1850s.

Field M, situated along the northeast slope of the tell, was the only excavation area not selected for investigating the Islamic periods. The two squares excavated in this field were a continuation of fieldwork done in 2001 and were meant to

explore pre-Byzantine levels. Thousands of sherds of Roman-period pottery, predominantly jars, were recovered and are currently in the process of mending. They were associated with a large installation that has been tentatively identified as an industrial-scale wine press.

Although Andrews University surveyed the Wadi Majarr in the 1970s, we conducted an intense walking survey of the 3-km extent of the wadi, in addition to a 2-km portion that adjoins the Wadi Hisban, initially in order to identify farmsteads of the Middle and Late Islamic periods, take soil samples for environmental (pollen) analysis, and collect pottery from these periods, the typologies of which are better understood today. In addition, local residents were informally interviewed to gain an oral history of the date of construction of water mills, farmhouses, and stables and to reconstruct the intermittent domestic and storage use of caves in this last century. The survey eventually focused on the many late Ottoman and Mandate-period water mills located in the two wadi systems, how they were used, and who owned them, and on how the local agricultural markets were structured at the turn of the twentieth century.

As part of its long-term commitment to cultural heritage preservation and public presentation of the site, walls were reinforced and arches of the medieval buildings on the tell were rebuilt. In addition, viewing platforms, pathways, and interpretive signs were constructed to facilitate the movement of visitors around the site, and trash cans were installed. Construction of a multi-media visitor's center at the site is currently in the planning stages.

We would like to acknowledge the help and expertise of our representatives from the Department of Antiquities, Mrs. Sabah Abu Hedaib (excavation) and Mr. Adnan Arrafaiah (survey), and the assistance of Department Surveyor, Mr. Qutaiba Dasouqi.

As always, we are grateful to Dr. Fawwaz al-Khaysheh and the Department of Antiquities and Drs. Pierre Bikai and Patricia Bikai and Kurt Zamora at ACOR for their continued support. The project was funded this season by Andrews and Oklahoma State Universities and supported in numerous ways by the University of Jordan.

1. The formal preliminary reports on the 1998 and 2001 seasons were published in Bethany J. Walker and flystein S. LaBianca, The Islamic *Qasr* of Tall Hisban: Preliminary Report on the 1998 and 2001 Seasons, *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan* 47 (2003) 443-71; flystein S. LaBianca and Bethany J. Walker, Tall Hisban, Jordan: Countering the Urban Bias in Islamic Studies, *ACOR Newsletter* (Summer, 2001): 9-10; and flystein S. LaBianca, Paul J. Ray, Jr., and Bethany J. Walker, Madaba Plains Project, Tall Hisban, 1998, *Andrews University Seminary Studies* 38.1 (2000): 9-21. Secondary studies, with a historical focus, appear in Bethany J. Walker Mamluk Investment in the Transjordan: A Boom and Bust Economy, *Mamluk Studies Review* 8.2 (2004): 119-47; Bethany J. Walker, Mamluk Investment in Southern *Bilad al-Sham* in the Fourteenth Century: The Case of Hisban, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 62.3 (2003): 241-61; and Bethany J. Walker, Mamluk Administration of Transjordan: Recent Findings from Tall Hisban, *al-Usur al-Wusta* 13.2 (October, 2001): 29-33.
2. Bethany J. Walker, Mamluk Administration of Transjordan: Recent Findings from Tall Hisban, *al-Usur al-Wusta* 13.2 (October, 2001): 29-33.

Khirbet Iskander

The sixth season of excavations at Khirbet Iskander took place from May 15 to June 20, 2004. Once again, a consortium of three schools—Gannon University, Lubbock Christian University and McMurry University—sponsored the Expedition. In previous years, excavation on the mound concentrated on the Early Bronze IV (ca. 2350–2000 B.C.) levels. This season, most of the work concentrated on earlier, urban occupational levels, particularly at the west end of Area B at the northwest corner of the mound.

The goals of this season were limited, but focused. No new squares were opened; rather, the objective was to maximize horizontal exposure of Phase C levels throughout previously excavated squares. The project's three precise goals were: 1) to connect, by means of limited excavation and stratigraphic removal of key balks, the Phase C settlement within the fortifications and to definitively date this level to either EB II or EB III; 2) to investigate and date the new wall remains from Phase D discovered at the end of 2000; and 3) to answer some unresolved questions from previous seasons through minor probes and/or limited excavation.

With the discoveries of clear diagnostic types, such as wavy-handled vessels in a destruction layer, we dated Phase C1 (upper) to the EB III period. With the removal of key north-south balks, the entire area from Squares B7 in the east to B1 and B2 in the west was opened, as seen in the accompanying photo. All the structures were constructed against either the tower or platform.

One of the excavated balks (B7/B1) clearly evidenced the southward collapse of a stone and mud brick wall onto a Phase C1 plaster floor. Beneath a meter or more of sintered stone, burned mud brick, charcoal, and extensive burning, the team excavated restorable EB III vessels, four fairly well-preserved wooden roofing beams, large quantities of wheat and barley, a pithos neck reused as a stand, and several small juglets. Embedded in the surface, there was a large round pillar base, a mortar, a small pavement, and several post holes. Within the ash layer, we recovered numerous human (probably male) articulated arm bones, which reassembled into a fairly complete arm.

The platform, as we now see it, is ca. 10 m long, including steps at the western end which bond to the northwest corner tower. The platform was found to end at a north-south transverse wall, apparently an anti-earthquake device included in the defensive system.

The resumption of work in Square B5, just south of B1, paralleled the discoveries noted above in B1/B7. Massive mud brick collapse had preserved a wealth of materials from the EB III period, including what appeared to be a mud brick installation, in the niche of which an EB III store jar with two loop handles sat on a stone paver. We also discovered wooden beams, plaster roof collapse with reed impressions, and great quantities of peas and lentils, in addition to a treasure trove of objects and restorable pottery, including a complete EB III teapot with wavy handles and a second pithos neck stand. The objects, primarily ground stone, included many different types of mortars with depressions of various sizes and types,

from shallow to deep. Some had depressions on both sides.

There were a number of stone objects, including: 1) a complete limestone piriform-shaped macehead; 2) a stamp seal with a rectangular base (no design); 3) a hematite stone in the form of (perhaps) a cosmetic grinding dish; and 4) several probable tournettes.

Regarding our second goal, we removed a segment of the (Phase C) western perimeter wall at the point where it abutted the northwest tower. The purpose was to expose more of the Phase D mud brick/stone wall with attached pier that had been discovered in 2000. Unfortunately, except to observe that the wall appeared to be curvilinear, we were not able to complete



View of Phase C EB III occupation from west to east in B7/B1/B2

the work due to time constraints. The date and nature (whether defensive or not) of this wall remains to be clarified.

Toward our third goal of answering some unresolved questions from previous seasons, several probes were excavated. We reached the bottom—a pavement—of the enigmatic circular subterranean stone structure found in 2000. It is a silo/bin ca. 2.5 m in diameter with a depth just over 2.0 m; the date is probably EB IV, based on a parallel structure at the west end of the field. A second probe in Area C, the gateway, successfully exposed more of an EB IV house plan, as well as enhanced our statistical sample of pottery from Phase 1. Lastly, a small team excavated an installation at the summit of the hill directly behind the site. It proved to be a circle-of-stone installation with three very large menhirs and numer-

ous smaller standing stones. Considering the great height of the fallen menhirs, it is probable that they were visible from a great distance.

Suzanne Richard, Gannon University

Jesse C. Long, Jr., Lubbock Christian University

Bill Libby, McMurry University

Ya'amun

The sixth season of excavation by the joint University of Arkansas (King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies and the Anthropology Department) and Yarmouk University (Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Anthropology and Archaeology Departments) bioarchaeological field school took place from June 13 to July 28, 2004. The field school, with staff from both universities, enrolled one Jordanian and eleven American students. This year we were joined by 27 BA students fulfilling their field school requirement at Yarmouk under Dr. Turshan's direction. The project was able to employ 40 workers from the local community.

In 2003, a short season had been conducted to surface-survey the entire site, which resulted in locating 398 features that were then added to the topographical map: 110 robbed or possible tombs, 144 caves, 60 small quarry sites, 54 carved cisterns for water storage, 4 possible wine presses, 24 cup marks, and 2 possible olive presses.

Upon reaching the site this year, our priorities were to continue excavating the tombs, moving into Necropolises II, III, and IV, and to examine the potential wine and olive presses. We excavated eight tombs, including one (Tomb 25) which had been partially excavated in 2001. Continuation of this excavation revealed four stone-cut graves around the entrance, as shown below. Although all eight tombs had been robbed, we were able to recover 38 complete and fragmented skeletons and a large number of human teeth. In addition, we found a number of artifacts in good condition, including a Roman glass unguentarium and a Roman glass bowl (the latter



Tomb 25 showing stone-cut graves around the entrance

is shown to the right). Through the use of metal probes and digging large test pits and long trenches, we established that there are no further tombs in Necropolis III and the southern half of Necropolis IV.

We were particularly interested in determining how many wine and olive presses we actually had on this site. We had previously excavated and drawn a large wine press three years before. We now had the possibility of this press and another four wine presses and two olive presses. It turned out that our possible presses were not olive presses so we were left with our previously-excavated wine press and perhaps four more. Results showed that two of the four were not wine presses, but two were. Indeed, one of these was evidenced by a straight cut edge in the bedrock in the location where we had been parking our bus for the past four years; when the area was cleared of animal waste we uncovered a wine press with seven treading rooms and associated storage basins, matching the size of the earlier press. For six years we had been getting off our bus and walking through the sheep pens directly over a large wine press. During the exploration process, we stumbled upon another wine press. Therefore, the original press plus the two located from the survey and the one we tripped over gives a total of four wine presses for the site to date. The important point is that the two larger presses clearly establish commercial wine production at Ya'amun.

The Yarmouk undergraduates working on the Tell excavated seven 10 x 10 m squares adjacent to the Byzantine church. Their goal was to excavate along both sides of the previously excavated church, where a paved walkway and the most eastern two rooms had been exposed. The most important results included finding more evidence for the presence of



Glass bowl found in robbed and open tomb

Late Bronze and Iron I and II architecture underneath the Byzantine layer, and demonstrating the continued use of the church buildings through Byzantine, Umayyad, Ayyubid, and Mamluk periods.

Finally, we closed the season with additional conservation steps. Although the mosaic floor of the church had been covered with plastic and sand after mapping five years ago, it seemed that the floor was still being damaged by plant growth. We again removed all of the soil from the church floor, covered it with a layer of clean construction sand purchased specially for this purpose, then laid down a layer of thick construction-grade plastic and sealed it with tape. Then another layer of clean sand, followed by a thick layer of local soil, was spread over the entire floor.

Dolores L. Burke, University of Arkansas

Nizar Turshan, Yarmouk University

Beidha

The third season of the Beidha Documentation Project (Sept. 18 to Oct. 7, 2004) concentrated on the area directly south of and across the modern road from Siq al-Amti. In this location, there are several Nabataean halls, Nabataean tombs,

and at least one cistern, all cut into bedrock, as well as numerous built walls indicating habitation areas. Some of the habitation areas were tested and found to be very similar in that they appear to be from late antiquity, probably Crusader. Some of the houses consist of rectangular rooms with one arch supporting a roof.

A small Nabataean tomb in the Assyrian style was partially cleared so that it can be visited. One cistern, measuring 6.6 x 5 x 5.6 m deep was partially excavated (below). It originally had a roof supported by three arches. Additionally, the enormous rock-cut cistern on the al-Amri side of the modern road was also documented. This cistern is known lo-



Nabataean hall that was converted into a Byzantine church



Cistern

cally as Bir al-Arous (the Bride's Cistern). It was originally cleared of modern debris by Diana Kirkbride while she was working at Neolithic Beidha; the cistern was cleaned again in more recent times by GTZ, the German development agency.

When cleared, the largest of the Nabataean rock-cut halls (7.6 x 8.7 x 7.6 m high) was found to have been reconfigured as a church in the Byzantine period and probably reused by the Crusaders. The modifications included the cutting of an apse into the eastern wall of the chamber and the cutting of a "bishop's chair" within that apse. North of the apse there are a number of crosses cut into the bedrock. The original Nabataean hall had columns at the front, but the remains of these were built into a wall across the opening when it was used as a church. Beyond that wall and outside of the actual chamber, a two-story structure was built, probably to serve as a sacristy for the church.

Beyond the archaeological interest of this project, a major objective is to create employment in the Beidha area, both in terms of direct employment and in the creation of attractions for visitors that may create employment in the future. The participants this season were Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos, architect; Shari Saunders, archaeologist; Fawwaz Ishaqat, surveyor (Hashemite University); Fraser Parsons, water engineer; trainees: Dina Namraqa, Najd Sweidan, and Aysha Shoman. The representative of the Department of Antiquities

was Mohammed A. Marahlch. The project was made possible by generous grants from the Khalid Shoman Foundation (thank you to Suha Shoman); ACOR's Petra Endowment; and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. In-kind donations were made by the Petra Regional Authority (thank you to Director Shahadeh Abu-Hdeib and Eng. Sa'ad al-Rawajfa), and by Hashemite University (thank you to Dr. Talal Akasheh). ACOR thanks the Department of Antiquities,



The Byzantine church: apse with the bishop's throne

in particular the director, Dr. Fawwaz al-Khrayshch, and Mr. Suleiman Farajat, director of the Petra National Park, for their assistance.

Patricia M. Bikai, ACOR

Petra Church Conservation Project

From July to September 2004, Franco Sciorilli and a team of four worked on the consolidation of the mosaics of the Petra Church.



Conservation work at the Petra Church

The project was supported by income from the Petra Church Conservation Endowment and by the Department of Antiquities who provided the housing. Two team members, Hussein Hamad and Mohammad Nuweija, who are responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the Byzantine Church, were trained by Franco Sciorilli to do many of the repairs that are necessary on a regular basis.

Ululation in Levantine Society: Vocalization as Aesthetic, Affective, and Corporeal Practice

The high-pitched vocal practice of ululation (*zaghareet* in Arabic) is frequently accorded a descriptive role in literature, ethnography, film, and, more recently, international news media. My fellowship tenure in the Middle East (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt) has been focused on investigating ululation, its meanings, contexts of performance, and stylistic variations. Using a variety of ethnographic methods, including participant observation, interviews, and video and audio-taped documentation, I have traced *zaghareet* from its closest associated meaning—an expression of joy—through its more nuanced understandings.

Competency in *zaghareet* by both men and women is unevenly distributed across the Middle East because the practice reflects different kinds of social identities (including socio-economic class, region, and gender identities) and ex-

pressions of affinity. Moreover, the designation of *zaghareet* as part of local *turaath* ‘heritage’ necessitates its performance during particular rituals—especially weddings, baptisms, and



Women ululating



Stone figures of women ululating

though this custom is more locally contingent. Aside from expressing emotion, its performance is said to “encourage” other individuals to act or feel. That is, upon hearing *zaghareet*, a person reportedly feels stronger emotions (usually happiness) or is compelled to take some type of action (e.g., dancing or singing).

Most adult informants report that they learned to perform *zaghareet* as teenagers (13-15 years old), but from my observations, children as young as four practice making the trilling sound, actively mimicking their friends and family members, or what they hear on the television and in pop music. The rapid side-to-side tongue movement found in one style of Jordanian *zaghareet* is remarkable, and may require an early age of acquisition for mastery. Commentary surrounding the practice reveals a concern that performance-knowledge of *zaghareet* is fading among younger generations, and, like other traditions, there is some need to preserve it. However, the sound itself remains commonplace and identifiable throughout the region, and it is frequently sampled into popular Middle Eastern music.



Jenny Jacobs filming

Jennifer E. Jacobs, University of Pennsylvania

In Memoriam

Bastiaan Van Elderen, 1925-2004

Our friend and colleague Bastiaan Van Elderen passed away from a heart attack on August 8, 2004 at the age of 79.

A graduate of Calvin Theological Seminary, with advanced degrees from the University of California, Berkeley and the Pacific School of Religion (Th.D., 1961), Bastiaan was world-renowned for his expertise in New Testament. His keen interest in early Christianity led him to combine the study of ancient manuscripts and archaeological sites; his choices of field work concentrated on sites with ancient churches and monasteries.

Bastiaan's career in field archaeology, which spanned over forty years, included extensive excavation in Jordan. He served as an area supervisor for the Andrews University Excavations at Tell Hesban (four seasons, 1968-74), where he primarily worked on the excavation and preliminary publication of the acropolis church. After a hiatus for work in Egypt, he served on the senior staff of the Abila Excavations for six field seasons during the period 1986-96. He served two terms as director of ACOR, in 1970 and 1972-74, at a time when the center was located near the Third Circle on Jebel Amman. As ACOR director, he assisted the Department of Antiquities on numerous rescue excavations of churches, such as those at Masuh, Kufr Abu Sarbut and Swafiyeh.

His fluency in Koine Greek was applied to epigraphic work on Byzantine mosaics and other inscriptions. One especially memorable achievement was the decipherment and translation of the duplicate dedicatory inscriptions of the Jerash South Theater, which attributed construction patronage to the Emperor Domitian.

Those of us who sat in his classes were served up a smorgasbord of archaeological landscapes, backed with slides of the hundreds, if not thousands, of sites he knew intimately and loved deeply from over forty years of travel, excavation and residence in the East Mediterranean. Condolence notes may be sent to his wife Vivolyn (Viv) and family, c/o Anita Eerdmans, 255 Jefferson S. E. Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Bert de Vries, Calvin College

Mary-Louise Mussell, 1959-2005

Mary-Louise Mussell died after a long illness on Sunday, January 23 in a hospital near her home in Oxford Mills, Ontario. She was 45 years old.

Mary-Louise earned both her B.A. (1981) and M.A. (1983) at Wilfrid Laurier U., studying archaeology. She earned a second M.A. (1988) and a Ph.D. (1993) in Biblical Studies from Drew U. Her dissertation was *An Archaeological Evaluation of the Social Revolution Model of the Israelite Settlement of Canaan*. She worked on several archaeological excavations during these years, including Tell el-Hesi, Caesarea Maritima, Abila, and Khirbet Iskander.

Mary-Louise will certainly be best remembered for her work as an original member of the Roman Aqaba Project in

Jordan. She served on all six field seasons of the project from 1994 to 2002. Throughout these years she was the supervisor of a major excavation area that included the first exposed segment of the Byzantine city wall and, above all, the mudbrick structure interpreted as an early Christian church. She also recruited many fine students from Canada for the staff.

Mary-Louise was quite ill during the 2002 campaign but insisted on remaining until the season's end. She was diagnosed with cancer soon after her return to Canada. She fought back bravely and continued working; publication of her area



remained an important personal goal. She was scheduled to present a paper on the church at a workshop at the ASOR meeting in 2003, but she was unable to do it. Her interpretations were presented by others and the respondent, L. Michael White (a leading scholar in the origins of Christian churches), stated unequivocally that he was convinced that the structure was an early church.

Mary-Louise was delighted when I conveyed the news to her afterwards by telephone; she was the first to advance the church hypothesis.

Although Mary-Louise leaves other professional accomplishments beyond the Aqaba project (such as directing a small excavation at Tell el-Kheleifeh in 1999), the church will be her main scholarly legacy. Her colleagues will see her work through to publication. Given her enormous contribution, she was pleased to learn before her death that she will be a co-author of the chapter on the church in the RAP final report.

While her premature death is indeed a tragedy, Mary-Louise made a significant contribution to the archaeology of Jordan. She will live on in all our hearts.

S. Thomas Parker, North Carolina State University

W. Harold Mare, 1918-2004

W. Harold Mare, director of the Abila of the Decapolis project, was killed in an automobile accident en route to Mafraq, Jordan on June 21, 2004. Harold had been directing the excavations at Abila, a site located about 15 km north of Irbid, since 1980. Previous to Abila, he participated in excavations at Tell Hesban, Khirbet Radanna, and Tekoa. He was 85 years of age.

Harold earned his Ph.D. in classical archaeology from the U. of Pennsylvania in 1961. He was professor of New Testament at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri from 1963 to his retirement in 1984, and he continued as professor emeritus until his death. Among his published works were *The Archaeology of the Jerusalem Area* in 1987, as well as preliminary reports in *Aram*, the *Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan*, and the *Near East Archaeological Society Bulletin*. He also wrote entries on Abila for several reference works. Harold is survived by five children. In 2002, his wife Betty preceded him in death.

Timothy C. Snow

Director's Report:

July through December 2004

Pierre M. Bikai

ACOR Projects

Beidha Excavation Project, ACOR, Patricia Bikai and Naif Zaban, Khalid Shoman Foundation and the USAID Petra Endowment.

Petra Scrolls Project, U. of Michigan: Traianos Gagos and Ludwig Koenig; U. of Helsinki: Jaakko Frösén, Maarit Kaimio, Mattias Buchholz, and Marja Vierros

Fellows in Residence

Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) Senior Fellows:

Angel Foster, Ibis Reproductive Health/Harvard Medical Group, Young Women's Health and Sexuality in the Middle East

Elise Friedland, Rollins College, Art as Cultural Negotiation: Sculptural Dedications at Sanctuaries in the Roman Near East

Robert Watkins Greeley, U. of California, Berkeley, Iraqi Literature

R. Stephen Humphreys, U. of California, Santa Barbara, Christianity and Islam in Early Islamic Syria, 634-809

Pete Moore, U. of Miami, Qualified Industrial Zones in Jordan

Leslie Quintero, U. of California, Riverside, Archaeological Investigation of the Lower Paleolithic of the al-Jafr Basin

Joseph Stumpf, Montgomery College, Diachronic Study of an Urban Domestic Setting, 1st-10th c. CE

Philip Wilke, U. of California, Riverside, Early Bronze Lithic Industry

Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) Fellows:

Alivia Allison, U. of Missouri, Kansas City, In Search of the Ancient Harbor of Aila in Aqaba, Jordan

Matthew Breznai, North Carolina State U., Central Jordan in the Classical Period

Michelle Browsers, Wake Forest U., Reformation in Islamic Political Thought

Elena Dodge Corbett, U. of Chicago, Jordan First: Archaeology and Perceptions of National Identity in Jordan

Christine Jo Dykgraaf, U. of Arizona, Martyrdom as a Theme in Palestinian Literature 1967-1987

Jennifer Jacobs, U. of Pennsylvania, Ululation in Levantine Society: Vocalization as Aesthetic, Affective, and Corporal Practice

Kimberly Katz, Towson U., Holy Places and National Spaces: Jerusalem under Jordanian Rule, 1948-1967

Jessica Lieberman, George Washington U., Transnational Advocacy Networks: Role of Jordanian NGOs in Women's Rights and Press Freedoms

Joseph Livingston, U. of Texas, Role of Socioeconomic

Status on Palestinian Political Behavior

David Patel, Stanford U., Speaking for Change: Friday Sermons, State Oversight, and Local Politics in Jordan

Laura Pearl, U. of Michigan, The Islamic Movement at Yarmouk U.

Mezna Qato, St. Antonys College, Oxford, Palestinian Historiography

Tiffany Raszick, U. of Liverpool, Chipped Stone at Shuna
Samuel H. Kress Fellow:

Leigh-Ann Bedal, Pennsylvania State U., Petra Imperial Cult
Harrell Family Fellows:

Dawn Cropper, U. of Sydney, The Wadi ath-Thamad Project

Elizabeth Monroe, U. of California, San Diego, Jabal Hamrat Fidan 2004 Salvage Project

For information on ACOR's fellowships contact ACOR, 656 Beacon St., 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02215-2010; tel.: 617-353-6571; e-mail: acor@bu.edu; web: www.bu.edu/acor.

ACOR-Assisted Projects

Leigh-Ann Bedal, Pennsylvania State U., Petra Garden & Pool Complex Excavation

Martha Sharp Joukowsky, Brown U., Petra Great Temple

Thomas Levy, U. of California, San Diego, Wadi Fidan Excavation Project

John Oleson, U. of Victoria, Humayma Excavation Project

Bruce Routledge, U. of Liverpool, Khirbet al-Mudayna al-Aliya Excavations

Lectures

July 6. **Traianos Gagos**, U. of Michigan, Petra in the Sixth Century: A Cosmopolitan Community of the Byzantine Empire (held at the Department of Antiquities)

July 7. Matthew Breznai, North Carolina State U., Central Jordan during the Classical Period

July 10. Pete Moore, U. of Miami, The Jordanian Free Trade Experiment

July 14. Deborah I. Olszewski and Maire Crowley, U. of Pennsylvania, and Maysoun al-Nahar, U. of Jordan, Paleolithic Chert Use and Sources in the Wadi al-Hasa, Jordan

July 15. Angel Foster, Ibis Reproductive Health/Harvard Medical Group, Knowledge Attitudes & Practices: Sexual and Reproductive Health at the University of Jordan

July 17. David Patel, Stanford U., Mosques and Collective Action in Jordan

July 18. Kimberly Katz, Towson U., Holy Places and National Spaces

July 21. Pierre Bikai, ACOR, Conservation and Preservation of Archaeological Sites (held at the Department of Antiquities of Jordan)

July 24. Joseph Stumpf, Montgomery College, Excavation of Domestic Contexts in Ancient Ayla

July 28. Leigh-Ann Bedal, Pennsylvania State U., Petra Garden and Pool Complex

Aug. 8. Laura Pearl, U. of Michigan, Sisters in God: The Production of Relatedness among Islamist Female Students at Yarmouk University

Aug. 10. Christine Jo Dykgraff, U. of Arizona, Martyrdom as a Theme in Palestinian Literature, 1967-1987

Oct. 31. Pierre Bikai, ACOR, Archaeology and Restoration in Jordan

Dec. 30. Kurt Zamora, ACOR, The Geography of Jordan

Dec. 30. Pierre Bikai, ACOR, Ancient History of Jordan

Happenings at ACOR

July 4. A big day for ACOR the leaseline is installed and ACOR's wireless network is up and running. Residents with



Left: the leaseline comes into ACOR; right: Eng. Mahmoud al-Khdeirat and Ibrahim Barri who installed the wireless hardware in the building



The residents try out the wireless connection in the living room

laptops now have access to the Internet in the library and public areas; soon there will be access in most of the building. This will finally end the frustration of both staff and residents with the slow connections when a telephone line was available.

July 12. ACOR staff is kept busy administering the *SUNY Stony Brook USAID-HEAD Summer Workshop*. The program, which runs from June 19 to Aug. 26, trains 50 Iraqi professionals in archaeology and conservation.

July 22. Pierre and Patricia attend a fund-raiser for the Petra National Trust at Darat al-Funun. The evening is beautiful and the event is well attended by many supporters of the

PNT, a non-governmental "friends of" organization established to help preserve Petra.

Aug. 1. Pierre takes the Stony Brook group on a tour of Umm el-Jimal, an impressive multi-period site covering the Nabataean, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods; it was excavated by former ACOR director, Bert de Vries.

Aug. 9. Rick Spees, a consultant for the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) and a friend of ACOR's, arrives for a tour of Jordan.

Aug. 28. ACOR gives a tour of Jerash to a group of American Embassy employees.

Sept. 9. Pierre and Patricia attend the opening of the Petra: Lost City of Stone exhibit at the Cincinnati Art Museum. It was the Cincinnati Art Museum's Curator of Classical and Near Eastern Art, Dr. Glenn Markoe, who initially organized the exhibit as that museum has the largest collection of Nabataean materials outside of Jordan.

Sept. 10. Pierre and Patricia give two gallery tours of the Petra exhibit. Many of the pieces are from ACOR projects at Petra.

Sept. 17. Patricia leaves for Beidha to begin her fall season of excavation.

Sept. 24. Pierre takes a group of American Embassy employees on a tour of Madaba and Mt. Nebo.

Oct. 6. Gerry Scott, Director of the American Research Center in Egypt, with family and friends begin their tour of Jordan.

Oct. 25. The Jordanian Trustees meet to discuss the upcoming board meeting.

Sept. 27. Pierre participates in Jordan's National Tourism



Pierre Bikai with conservator Franco Sciorilli at the Petra Church; the work on the mosaics was made possible by the Petra Church Conservation Endowment

Strategy conference.

Sept. 28. Pierre gives a tour of Petra to a group from Seven Wonders Travel.

Oct. 30. John Acree of the International Resources Group



Above: Tom Levy (right) and some of his group prepare to depart for the field on June 28; below: Tom Levy's excavators return to ACOR on Aug. 7.



visits ACOR to discuss collaborating with ACOR on archaeological projects in Jordan.

Nov. 8. Pierre takes a congressional delegation on a tour of Petra. Members include representatives

William M. Thomas (R-CA), Nancy Johnson (R-CT), Wally Herger (R-CA), Michael McNulty (D-NY), Phil English (R-PA), and Ron Lewis (R-KY).

Nov. 19. The ACOR Board of Trustees meets in San Antonio, Texas. The main topic of discussion is the search for the new ACOR director.

Nov. 21. ACOR hosts a training course for the Getty Conser-

vation Institute-World Monuments Fund Iraq Cultural Heritage Conservation Initiative that runs from Nov. 21 to Dec. 19. The course provides Iraqi professionals with the methodology and tools to start inventorying Iraq's cultural heritage and assessing its conditions.

Dec. 28. Twelve professors from the U.S. arrive to participate in ACOR's *Teaching about Islam and Middle Eastern Culture* seminar. The three-week program includes an intensive lecture series and tours to numerous historical and cultural sites in Jordan.

Dec. 30. Kurt takes the seminar group to his in-laws for dinner and spends three hours translating English and Arabic until his head is spinning.

Dec. 31. Pierre takes the seminar group on a tour of Madaba and the surrounding area. That evening, ACOR residents celebrate New Year's Eve together in the ACOR lobby.

Two New Fellowship Funds Established

ACOR is proud to announce two new endowed fellowship funds. A donation from Burton MacDonald and Rosemarie Sampson begins a fund for fellowships for Canadian students, undergraduate or graduate level. The fields of study can be ancient Near Eastern languages and history; anthropology; Arabic language; archaeology, Biblical studies or comparative religion.

A donation from Bert and Sally de Vries begins an endowment fund for fellowships for students from North America or the Arab world.

ACOR has worked hard on raising funds for fellowships for the younger student as it is that "first chance" to go to the field, be it for archaeology or other studies, that is often so difficult for a student to get.

Donors to ACOR

During July through December 2004, the following friends of ACOR made donations:

General Donations were made by Laird Barber, Leigh Ann Bedal, Martha Boling-Risser, Janice Lynn Brannon (Seven Wonders Travel), Ellen and Nirmal Chatterjee, Connie and Terry Christensen, Virginia and Wesley Egan, Jane Elins, Nan Frederick, Jane and Robert Geniesse, Lawrence Geraty, Victor Roland Gold, Anna Gonosova, Martha and Artemis Joukowsky (Joukowsky Family Foundation), Øystein LaBianca, Nancy Lapp, Bonnie Nuzum, Suzanne Richard, Tori Rohl, Charles P. Schutt Agency, Marian and Albert Smith, Lucy and Jim Wiseman, and Hal and Judy Zimmerman.

The Anne Ogilvy Memorial Library Endowment received donations from Ames Planning Associates and Roger Boraas.

Donations to the Petra Church Conservation Endowment were received by Janice Lynn Brannon (Seven Wonders Travel) and John Prinscott.

The Harrell Family Fellowship Endowment received donations from Brooke and Philip Harrell and Paula and Edgar Harrell.

A donation to the Jennifer Groot Fellowship Endowment was made by S. Thomas Parker.

The James Saucr Memorial Fellowship Endowment received a donation from S. Thomas Parker.

The Sally and Bert de Vries Fellowship Endowment received donations from Sally and Bert de Vries.

The MacDonald-Sampson Fellowship Endowment received donations from Burton MacDonald and Rosemarie Sampson.

Donations of books and journals were received from Badi a al-Abed, William Blake, Jos M. Blazquez, Edward Burns, Rochelle Davies, Bert de Vries, Roald F. Docter, Edith Dunn, Christine Jo Dykgraff, Peter Elliston, Nayef Goussous, R. Stephen Humphreys, IFPO (courtesy of Aida Maraqa), International Crisis Group (courtesy of Joost Hiltermann), Jennifer Jacobs, Kelsey Museum (courtesy of Elise Friedland), Ludwig Koenen, Thomas Levy, Tina Niemi, John Oleson, David Patel, Sara Karz Reid, Gary Rollefson, Maria Elena Ronza, Yorke Rowan, Mario Santana-Quintero, Elisabeth Schumann, Andrew Smith, Jane Taylor, Mohammad Nahar Tubaihsat, Samuel C. Walker.

Special thanks to Harold Forshey for generously donating his personal library to ACOR.

Publications

The Petra Papyri I, edited by J. Frösén, A. Arjava, and M. Lehtinen. This first volume begins with the historical and archaeological context of the papyri; conservation; an outline of the dating systems in them; and a study of the family of the main character in the texts. The texts are documentary and written in Byzantine Greek. The volume includes 11 main documents and 5 minor ones, each with an introduction, Greek transcript with critical apparatus, English translation, and commentary. This large format (33 x 25 cm), cloth-bound volume has 192 pages including 26 plates. \$80.

The Petra Church by Z. T. Fiema, C. Kanellopoulos, T. Waliszewski, and R. Schick. Report on the church excavated by ACOR in Petra. With more than 700 illustrations, the volume contains reports on all aspects of a project that excavated what was probably the cathedral of Petra. This large format (33 x 25 cm), cloth-bound volume has 464 pages, 36 in full color. \$150.

The Mosaics of Jordan by Michele Piccirillo. Large format, cloth-bound volume includes 303 pages in full color with 824 illustrations, plans, and aerial photographs. \$175.

The Great Temple of Amman: The Architecture by Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos. The architecture of the temple that was excavated and partially restored by ACOR. Large format, cloth bound. \$80.

JADIS: The Jordan Antiquities Database and Information System: A Summary of the Data, edited by Gaetano Palumbo. Basic information on nearly 9,000 archaeological sites from all periods, plus 117 maps. This 453-page, hard-bound volume is xerographically reproduced. \$40.

The Great Temple of Amman: The Excavations by Anthi Koutsoukou, Kenneth W. Russell, Mohammad Najjar, and Ahmed Momani. Description of the 1990-93 excavations. This hard-bound volume has 180 pages and 3 fold-out plates. \$65.

Madaba: Cultural Heritage, edited by Patricia M. Bikai and Thomas A. Dailey. Catalogue of the remains from the Early Bronze Age through late Ottoman vernacular houses (113 pages, paperbound) Over 150 illustrations, five in color. Includes a separate large map. An Arabic translation is available at no additional cost. \$35.

Ancient Ammonites & Modern Arabs: 5000 Years in the Madaba Plains of Jordan, edited by Gloria A. London and Douglas R. Clark. Life across the centuries in the area excavated by the Madaba Plains Project. \$27.

The 150th Anniversary of the United States Expedition to Explore the Dead Sea and the River Jordan by Robert E.

Rook. An assessment of the Lynch expedition in 1848. Hard-bound volume of 32 pages. Many reproductions of Lynch's illustrations, including his three maps. \$20.

Madaba Map Centenary 1897-1997. With assistance from ACOR, the proceedings of a conference on the Byzantine mosaic map have been published. This well illustrated hard-bound volume has 278 pages, and is available for \$125.

All prices include shipping.

November 2004 Board Meeting

The ACOR Board of Trustees held their annual fall meeting in San Antonio, Texas, on Nov. 19, 2004. The two major topics of discussion were conditions in the Middle East and the search for the new ACOR director.

ACOR Trustees

Class of 2005: Mrs. Nancy Frederick; Dr. Harold Forshey; Mrs. Widad Kwar; Ambassador Anthony Marshall; Mr. Randolph B. Old (Treasurer); Dr. S. Thomas Parker (Second Vice President); H.E. Senator Leila Abdul Hamid Sharaf; and Dr. James Wiseman

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Ex-Officio: Dr. Lawrence T. Geraty, ASOR President

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ACOR and its Newsletter

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