

ACOR Newsletter

أخبار أكور



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The Ayl to Ras an-Naqb Archaeological Survey

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Andrew Bradshaw*

The Ayl to Ras an-Naqb Archaeological Survey project was in the field from the end of April to mid-June 2005; this was the first of a projected three seasons. The main objective of the survey is to discover, record, and interpret archaeological sites within the Ayl to Ras an-Naqb region – in an area of ca. 806 km² (map, p. 2). Another objective is to determine the settlement patterns in the region from the Lower Paleolithic (ca. 1.4 mya) to the end of the Late Islamic period (A.D. 1918). As there are a number of Pleistocene lakes within the survey territory, a third objective of the project is to investigate the period(s) in which they were “active.” Overall, the project’s objective is to add to the store of archaeological information on human presence and the human use of the area’s resources in the southern segment of the Transjordanian plateau, that is, from Wadi al-Hasa in the north to Ras an-Naqb in the south.

The survey territory, which is to the south of Petra/Wadi Musa, consists of three topographical zones: Zone I, an area to the west where elevations are between 1500 and 1100 m; Zone II, the mountainous region where elevations range from just over 1700 m to the north of the village of Ayl to 1500 m in the south at Ras an-Naqb; and Zone III, from the 1500 m line on the east towards the 1200 m line, that is, towards Ma’an (see map).

Mediterranean climate dominates in Zones I and II; annual precipitation is as low as 50 mm in the former to around 300 mm in the latter. In Zone III, the climate is arid, the vegetation Irano-Turanian. This is the steppe where the “desert” meets the “sown.”

Over the past 100 years a number of researchers have carried out archaeological surveys and, to a very limited extent, excavations in the region. However, no comprehensive survey of the area had been undertaken previous to the present project’s work.



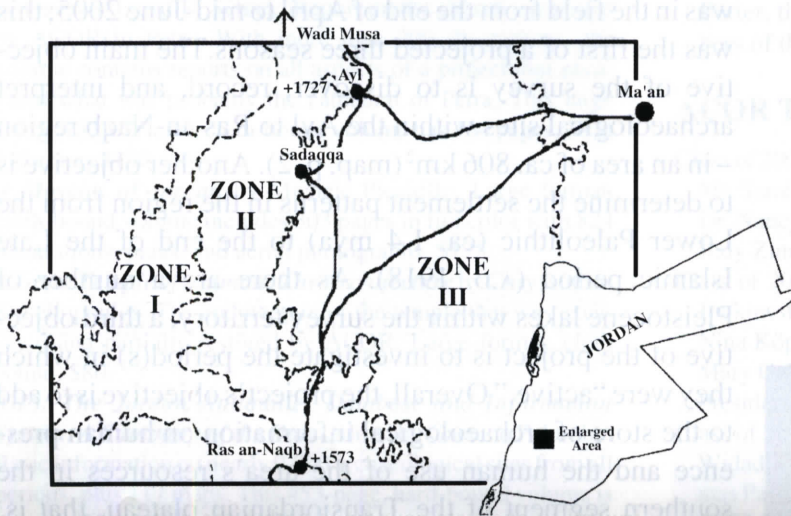
Remnants of a structure at Site 193, Khirbet al-Wahida, looking southwest



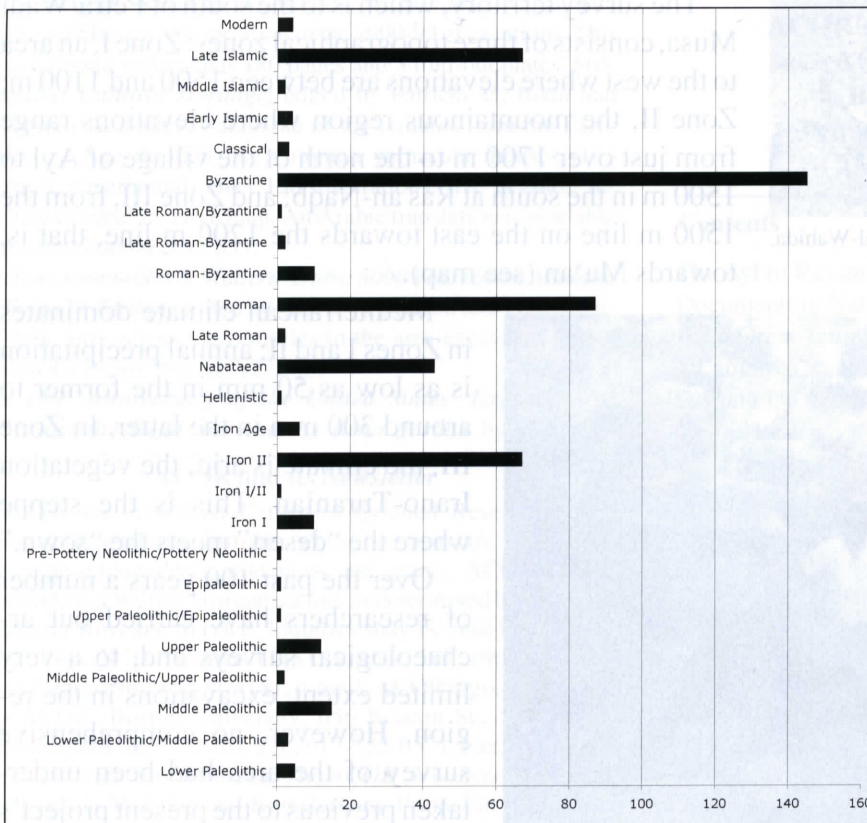
Northeast corner of the interior of a cistern at Site 121, Khirbet Umm Rujm

Various methodologies will be used during the course of the project. However, during this first season, a comprehensive and systematic examination of the greater part of topographical Zone II was carried out. The major, north-south roadway in the area runs through this zone, and the watershed is located here. As a result of the latter topographical feature, wadis flow to the southwest and southeast through this zone and into Zones I and III. We examined these wadis and the ridges between them. As a result, we discovered the majority of the project's 209 sites in this way.

Relative to the examination of the Pleistocene lakes in Zone III of the survey territory, we carried out pedestrian



Location of the survey territory within Jordan and the topographical zones of the survey area



Cultural-Temporal Units represented at the sites of the 2005 season

transects of segments of the lakes and collected associated materials, mostly lithics. As a result, we found lithic materials ranging from the Lower Paleolithic to the Epipaleolithic (ca. 18000-8500 B.C.). This indicates that at least some of the lakes were "active" during periods over a long span of time.

Agricultural towns/villages/hamlets, camps (seasonal), farms, forts, roads, and watchtowers were among the types of sites surveyed this season. The evidence of past agricultural activity is not surprising because Zone II is presently an area that is intensively farmed for the growing of barley, lentils, and wheat, in particular, and for the pasturing of goats and sheep. It is most probable that this area would have been a source of food for the inhabitants of a major center such as Petra.

Relative to the cultural-temporal units represented in the survey territory, we identified evidence of human presence from the Lower Paleolithic to the Epipaleolithic, and especially during the Iron II, Nabataean, Roman, Byzantine, and Late Islamic periods (chart). We were not able to identify evidence of sustained human presence in the survey territory for the Chalcolithic, Early Bronze, Middle Bronze, and Late Bronze periods. In addition, there is little evidence for settlement in the area during the Hellenistic and Early and Middle Islamic periods. It would appear, therefore, that there were periods when the area was sparsely, if at all, populated.

It was the growing and harvesting seasons in the survey territory during our first infield season. Thus, we were able to witness the number of Bedouin that are present at this time of year and their activity relative to their crops and animals. It is unlikely, however, that tent dwellers would be able to inhabit the area, especially the regions of high elevation, during the winter months.

The members of the survey team were surprised at the number of architectural remains at sites found in Zone II. These sites indicate the intensity of past farming activity in the area especially since the Iron Age. Relative to the Pleistocene lakes, there was little or no ceramic materials associated with them. This probably indicates that they dried up before the historical periods.

Project team members acknowledge the help of Dr. Fawwaz al-Khraysheh, Director General of the Department of Antiquities, and his staff, especially Ashraf Rawshed, departmental representative. They also express gratitude to Pierre Bikai and the ACOR staff who helped with all aspects of the project. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada is providing major funding for the project. [The authors are from St. Francis Xavier University-ed.].

Documenting Nabataean Cemeteries in Southern Jordan

During June 2005, two field projects sought to identify and document Nabataean cemeteries at two sites in southern Jordan. The Petra North Ridge Project mapped the visible architecture of probable Byzantine houses and Nabataean tombs in Petra, while the Wadi Ramm Cemetery Survey used ground penetrating radar (GPR) to identify and delineate the Nabataean cemetery at the site. Previous exploration at each site has focused primarily on large-scale, public architecture rather than residences or burial places of the average inhabitant. Bioarchaeological research exploring the biology of regional residents also has not been a research priority. Yet these sites have the potential to broaden our perspective of southern Jordan during the Nabataean, Roman, and Byzantine periods through exploration of their cemeteries and domestic structures.

Petra North Ridge Project

Exploration of Petra's North Ridge during 2005 sought to identify and map visible ancient structures and tombs within a ca. 6 km² area in preparation for future excavation. In addition, more recent features constructed by local bedouin such as terrace walls, wind breaks, or small structures were



Terracing along the North Ridge slope within Petra

recorded. The research area was delineated by the Ridge Church, the Blue Chapel Complex and the Petra Church to the east, the top of the North Ridge to the north, a ridge running down to Wadi Mataha to the east, and Wadi Mataha itself to the south. The survey did not include the area below the Petra Church plateau, an area that extends down to Wadi Musa.

Most of the documented walls and structures were located on the steep slope of the North Ridge and along the banks of Wadi Mataha. On the other hand, very few ancient walls were mapped within the plateau at the bottom of the North Ridge slope. This is likely due to the pattern of erosion, and numerous structures, perhaps some that are well-preserved, may exist within the flatter sector underneath the deposits. The North Ridge slope additionally was bisected by extensive terracing, probably dating to within the last 100 years. Almost all of the tombs noted during the survey had been robbed recently,



Tomb 16 (robbed) with capstones on the Petra North Ridge (view to the NW)

although it was apparent that a large corpus of ceramics, and in some cases bones, remained within the tombs. Additionally, the documentation of tombs well down the North Ridge slope suggests that more tombs exist underneath the ancient structures.

This mapping project identified many potential areas for excavation. First, the tombs that

are already exposed and robbed should be cleared to recover any remaining material (either cultural or skeletal), and to document the tomb's architectural style. Few tombs have been properly excavated within Petra, thus even imperfect data can significantly increase our understanding of the city's mortuary practices. Additionally, small soundings within some of the better defined structures and along some of the ancient walls could help identify their date and function and elucidate the occupational chronology of the North Ridge. It would also be fruitful to excavate soundings within the plateau below the North Ridge slope to identify structures within this area.

Wadi Ramm Cemetery Survey

The 2005 season of the Wadi Ramm Cemetery Survey sought to identify the cemetery associated with Nabataean and Roman occupation of ancient *Iram* through ground penetrating radar (GPR). Discovery of the cemetery can add to research of small waystations and religious centers such as that at Wadi Ramm. Bioarchaeological analysis of human skeletons from the cemetery may illuminate migration patterns, disease, health, and diet of the Thamudic tribes residing in the Hisma region of Jordan. Comparisons between these burials and those from Aila, Petra, Khirbet edh-Dharih can elucidate social and economic relations between these sites. Additionally, this research could potentially add another dimension to investigations of Nabataean mortuary rituals.

The GPR is able to detect subsurface archaeological features whose electrical properties contrast with those of the surrounding soil. It may identify disturbed soil, breaks in the natural stratigraphy or soil profile, or reflections from buried archaeological features. The effective depth of investigation of GPR depends upon the matrix through which the signal must travel and the GPR signal frequency. Conditions at the site were generally well suited for GPR survey and signal penetration was excellent.

Initially we hypothesized that the ancient cemetery would be located underneath the modern cemetery, along the slopes of the hill containing the temple and related structures, or along the modern street leading to the village. Unfortunately, extensive construction along the street prohibited GPR survey



Surveying Block D at Wadi Ramm with the GPR

of this latter area. Seven grids (Blocks A-F) totaling 8300 m² were laid out in the environs of the Nabataean temple, the “bath” complex and related “villa”, and the “southern village”. Block B (1800 m²) was laid out directly south of the main concentration of Islamic graves and within the

recently constructed site perimeter wall. Block C (600 m²) was located in between Block B and the bath/villa complex. Additionally, Block A (1000 m²) was placed immediately east of the perimeter wall surrounding the site, Block D (1200 m²) on the slope north of the bath/villa complex and perimeter wall, and Block E (2400 m²) to the south of Block B and the perimeter wall. Furthermore, Block F (400 m²) was established on a small rise between the “southern village” and the temple and bath complexes that contained tomb-like surface features. Finally, Block G (900 m²) was placed near the southern village.

GPR data were examined as profile views and as “time slices,” planview maps isolating specific depth ranges. All of the survey areas contain discrete reflections, either isolated or clustered, that are not inconsistent with Nabataean tombs.

Unfortunately, individual tombs would not be expected to show patterning that would explicitly identify them as such. While an isolated tomb might not be distinguishable from a boulder, the patterning of multiple tombs may be more suggestive. Marked Islamic graves within the survey area are generally expressed only in the near-surface, and are distinct from suspected Nabataean graves. Five of the six survey areas showed linear and rectilinear horizontal patterning indicative of architectural features. While architectural features were not the object of the investigation, their appearance is helpful in two ways. GPR response can be quite variable under different conditions, and the response to stone architectural features can help inform our identification of tombs or other less obviously patterned stone features. Mapping previously unknown architecture also gives us insights into intra-site patterning, providing context within which to interpret more ambiguous anomalies. Ground truthing (testing of geophysical interpretations) has not been performed, but would greatly inform interpretation of these data. Verification (or refutation) of preliminary interpretations and insights into feature composition and geology can allow us to revise or elaborate our interpretations, and to do so with greater confidence.

The authors gratefully acknowledge the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and the American Center of Oriental Research for their assistance. Funding for this project was provided by an East Carolina University Research Grant Development Program Award, a grant from the Joukowsky Family Foundation, an ACOR Kenneth Russell Fellowship, and an ACOR/CAORC Post-doctoral Fellowship.

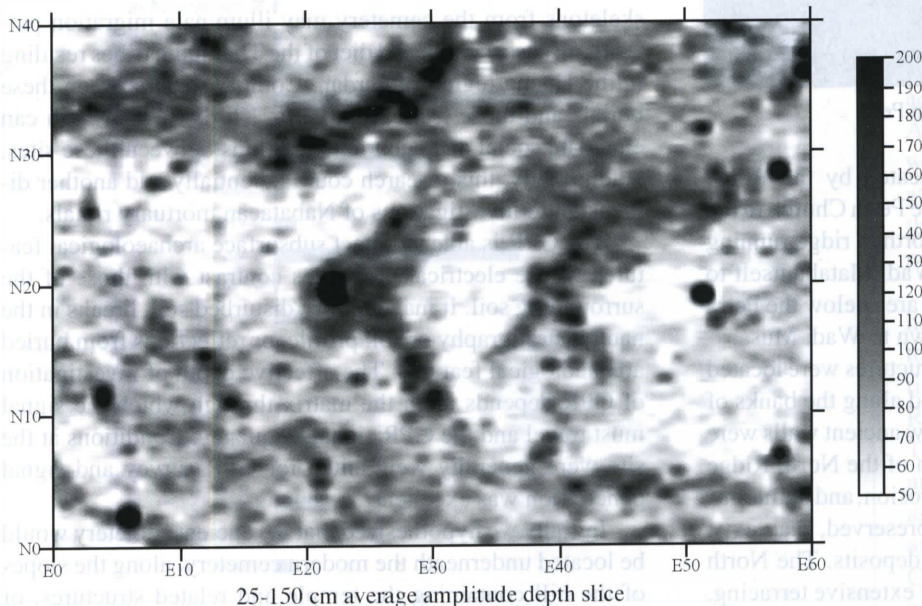
Megan A. Perry and Geoffrey Jones, East Carolina U.

Petra Great Temple

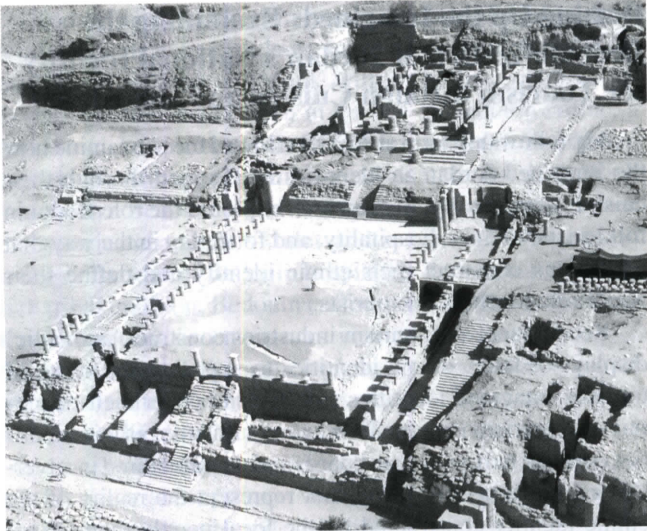
Brown University archaeologists excavated numerous trenches in all areas of the Great Temple to elucidate the stratigraphy and the layout, but only three areas will be covered here.

This season’s excavations showed that the Nabataeans created an entry passage from the street below to the Great Temple. This access measures 40.85 m in length with a total of four landing platforms and five series of steps, which are well preserved. All wall and step surfaces were plastered and some of the wall surfaces were decorated with lively floral designs.

The Lower Temenos West Cryptoporticus excavations were successful in exposing the “open” hall connecting the West Cryptoporticus West and the Propylaeum. A sounding near the center of the West Cryptoporticus between the vaults located in the east and west walls of the gallery uncovered two east to west transverse walls forming a passageway be-



Results of GPR survey in Block E at Wadi Ramm showing reflections (dark areas) from possible architectural features



Aerial photograph of the site after the 2005 season; all photos by Artemis A.W. Joukowsky

tween the vaults. The stratigraphy revealed early construction activity in the area of the Lower Temenos and that floodwaters flowed farther south of the current wadi bed before the Petra Great Temple was constructed.

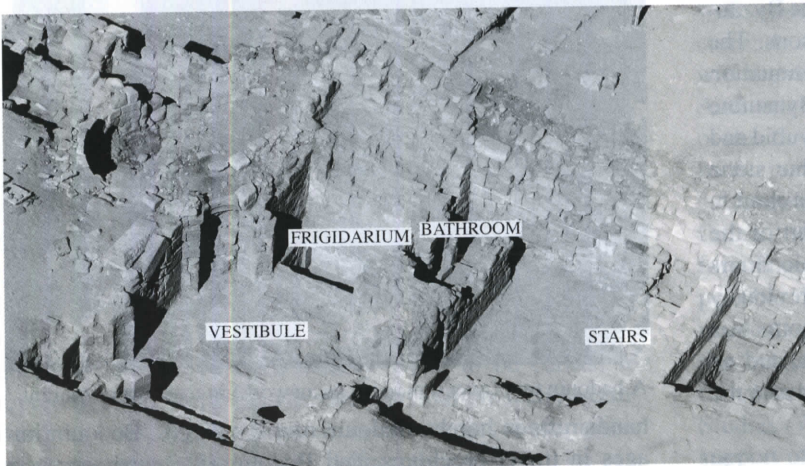
In the excavations of the Upper Temenos West Precinct



West Entry Stairs of Trench 102/103

Wall, an elegant Roman Bath complex was discovered with semi-circular bathrooms and a frigidarium accessed through a richly-appointed marble-covered room with semi-circular features at each of its four corners. Of interest are two Greek inscriptions that were found—one inscription uses the Homeric word “prudence” and dates to the 2^d or 3^d century A.D.

The southern area



Trench 105/106 Roman Baths

of the West Precinct Wall was excavated and a monumental cistern measuring 38.8 m² with an average depth of 1.96 m; it could hold 19,572 gallons of water. A large stone basin (0.82 m in height) was also part of this complex.

A sounding in the Great Temple East Pronaos, between the East Corridor Wall and doorway the East Anta of the *distyle in antis* and the stylobate wall of the *tetrastyle in antis* temple, proved the *tetrastyle in antis* structure was a later addition to the original façade.

A sounding in the center of the Theater floor in the temple proper revealed the construction technique for the theater and the stage—the architects reused a small column drum as a central pivot point for the laying out of the semicircular seating. Additionally the north-south central artery of the canalization was revealed.

In the temple, exploration of the West Temenos Retaining Wall’s relationship to the Temenos Platform revealed that the current temenos wall is a later addition, and that the original temenos platform was narrower than it is currently. Examination of the temple West Walkway revealed conclusively that the temenos platform is made up of a monumental fill, built over bedrock and stones. This platform was supported and bolstered on the west by a West Temenos Retaining Wall.

Martha Sharp Joukowsky, Brown U.

Ya’amun

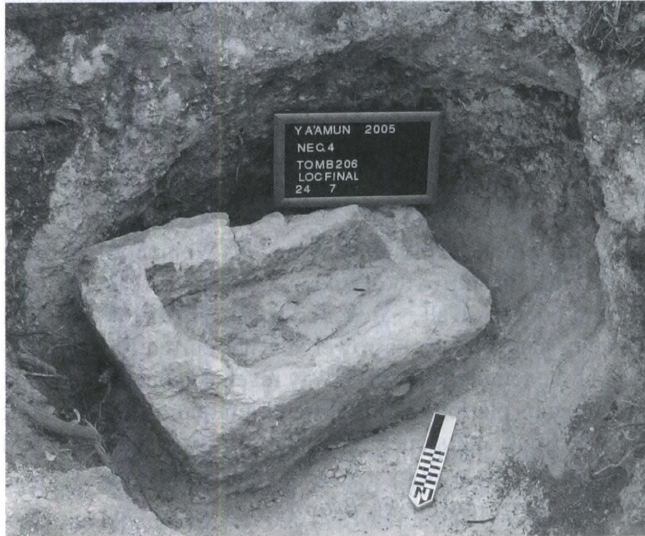
The seventh season of excavation by the joint University of Arkansas (King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies and the Anthropology Department) and Yarmouk University (Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Anthropology and Archaeology Departments) bioarchaeological field school took place from June 26 to July 25, 2005. The field school, with staff and students from both universities, also employed 40 workers from the surrounding area.

At the close of the 2004 season, we had excavated a total of 189 tombs at the Ya’amun site in four necropolises. This year we concentrated on Necropolis III and Necropolis IV, having determined that there were no further tombs in I and II. We excavated 18 tombs and, although all had been robbed, recovered a minimum number of individuals—20 adults and 10 subadults—in complete and fragmented skeletons and a large number of human teeth. Preliminary analysis of the skeletal material showed healed fractures primarily on ribs, limb bones, and bones of the hands and feet, and arthritis of the vertical joints of the spine, arms, and legs. One Byzantine-period child, aged about 2 from Tomb 198, showed evidence of iron deficiency anemia.

The tombs also yielded several artifacts, among them polished bone weaving tools, a tabun (in pieces), an iron bracelet from a skeleton, a tubular amber bead, and what appear to be chunks of raw glass (found in the tabun location); these could be indicative of a glass-making operation. There was also pottery including an Iron

Age I painted jug, a Late Roman cooking pot, an Early Byzantine oil jug, an Umayyad lamp piece showing a grape design, a Mameluk painted pot and lamp piece, and a local Ottoman lamp piece.

For many years we have excavated horizontal shaft tombs which contained sarcophagi for children and infants. We had always wondered where the sarcophagi were carved. This



The unfinished tomb

year in Tomb 206 we discovered where. In the middle of a small row of horizontal shaft tombs with sarcophagi, we found an unfinished tomb. It was clear that the sarcophagus was being carved as the entranceway was being cut out of the rock. What this situation tells us is that when the sarcophagus is finished, the horizontal shaft is cut, the infant is placed in the sarcophagus, and the sarcophagus is simply covered and pushed into the tomb. The illustration is of a sarcophagus that is half finished and still attached to the rock on the bottom; the project was abandoned when the carver broke the end off the sarcophagus. It is our thinking that the infant was then buried in the tomb just to the right of the unfinished tomb.

Work on the tell, as in 2004, was undertaken by Yarmouk undergraduates fulfilling their field school obligation in the B.A. program, under Dr. Turshan's supervision. Their training in excavation methods and techniques focused on uncovering the walls of the room rebuildings adjacent to the Byzantine church; this was work begun in previous seasons. The results of this season show clearly that there is a continuation of the walls and rooms that have been dated to the Byzantine and Umayyad periods, with continued use in the Ayyubid and Mameluk periods. A continuation of the Byzantine stone pavement was discovered under the south baulk of the church. In addition, a mosaic floor appeared in the east part of the church near the apse. The newly discovered mosaic floors consisted of geometric designs similar to the previously uncovered floor. A continuation of the two vestry rooms was also noted, but only the foundations of both rooms, and no evidence of Umayyad or Mameluk periods was found near the apse of the church.

Dolores L. Burke, U. of Arkansas

Nizar Turshan, Yarmouk U.

Dishing Up the Imagined: Examining the Bedouin-ization of Jordan's National Identity for Tourism through Cuisine and Hospitality

My fellowship term at ACOR allowed me to examine how the imagined Jordanian identities are formed through their cuisine. Specifically, my research explored the role Bedouin folkloristic images, hospitality, and food play in the way that Jordanians construct their ethnic identity and define their social relationships for tourists.

Recent tactics of tourism industries construct 'authentic' displays of local, ethnic identities to appeal to the sense of tourists' imagined identities and in turn bolster their economies via tourism income. However, 'authentic' ethnic identities constructed by tourism boards and manufactured in advertising campaigns often does not represent the reality of the ethnic identity constructed by the local people themselves.



A "welcome coffee" is offered in the lobby of a major hotel

With economic motivation, the tourism industry in Jordan has latched onto the idea of creating a national Jordanian identity that can be marketed. As a result, they have been commercializing the image of the Bedouin and Jordan's tribal heritage in order to attract tourists. For example, one can find Bedouin



A Bedouin tent (over a modern framework) in a tourist restaurant
handicrafts in hotels, Bedouin tourist villages, Bedouin images in travel brochures, and Bedouin-like experiences in package tours in Petra and Wadi Rum.

Today, many world cultures are marketed based on their food. In fact, entire package tours are geared toward the experience of food and drink within the host culture. An example of this can be seen in the use of Bedouin coffee, a prime social drink, to enhance tourists' 'authentic' Jordanian experience. Sitting and drinking coffee in the desert of Wadi Rum with a Bedouin sheikh has been an image romanticized in centuries of travelers' tales and is seen by foreigners to embody the idea of Bedouin hospitality. In keeping with this rich tribal tradition, Bedouin coffee served under a 'Bedouin tent' is frequently seen on tours, in restaurants and in many of the major hotel lobbies, enticing guests to 'experience' a taste of Jordanian life. Tour companies offer multi-day excursions, with names like "A Taste of Culture", where one can dine with 'real' Bedouin families in the desert each evening, or one can experience a *mansaf* dinner (Jordan's national dish made of rice, yogurt, and lamb) under a Bedouin tent in Wadi Rum; one can even participate in a 'traditional, authentic Bedouin wedding party'. One popular tour employs Bedouin women to teach participants how to prepare, cook, and serve Jordanian food. While these foods do play an important role in contemporary Jordan, it is not necessarily the role that has been put forth by the tourist agencies.



A cooking class for tourists in Wadi Musa (Petra); the author is on the left.

Anthropology has shown that food both brings people together and separates them, that food fills a symbolic need. Humans interact and deal with food in a cultural manner on a daily basis and food is the basis of every economy. Food triggers memory: when people talk about how a favorite dish is prepared and eaten, or what dishes are served at a particular ceremony, memories can surface about other aspects of their lives. This information can help illustrate how food preparation and consumption are closely connected with the social ties of a group and help to define their identity. Drawing from literature on the construction of nation-state identity, and how individuals relate to this identity, this study explores the question of how Bedouin identity came to be chosen to represent the whole of the Jordanian population. It also examines how the state, local population, and tourists consume this constructed Jordanian identity differently.

In order to better understand the role that food plays in



A display of coffee pots in a souvenir shop

Jordanian food and customs has required a survey of written historic accounts of travelers, early ethnographies, and histories. Artifacts, such as cookbooks (local versus tourist), newspapers, and magazines on contemporary Jordanian culture and cuisine, have been gathered and are being analyzed.

I also visited the main tourist destinations in Jordan (Amman, Jerash, the Dead Sea, Petra, Wadi Rum, and Aqaba) along with some of the lesser-visited sites. During these visits, I examined hotels, restaurants, and shops, and surveyed such tourism artifacts as menus, brochures, and tour group advertisements. In addition, I participated in tours of Wadi Musa and Wadi Rum in order to better appreciate the experiences tourists are taking away with them.

Through opportunistic sampling and later through snowball sampling, I conducted short semi-structured interviews with tourists to learn about their experiences with Jordanian cuisine and culture and to ascertain their impressions of Jordanian identity. As well, I conducted informal interviews with tourism workers in order to get a sense of their attitudes towards the identity the industry has helped to create. I was fortunate to speak with several people who are with the Jordanian Tourism Board and some others who are responsible for the tourism marketing strategy of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority. In addition, several professors of anthropology and tourism at Yarmouk University were kind enough to share both their time and their expertise with me. Data collection during this phase has been by verbal means, as well as still photography and video recordings. While I am currently in the early stages of analysis, the results of this study will be presented as my Master's thesis for the Department of Anthropology at the University of South Carolina. The format of this thesis will include both a written section and a visual media portion presented in the form of an interactive DVD.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank ACOR and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), for without their assistance this research would not have been possible. I would also like to thank the staff and my fellow residents at ACOR who made my fellowship not only productive but such a rewarding and enjoyable experience. In addition, I would like to thank the Walker Institute of International Studies (WIIS) at the University of South Carolina for their support of this project.

Kimberly K. Cavanagh, U. of South Carolina

Jordanian culture, I have employed several different sampling methods of data collection that have assisted me in exploring the question of how imagined Jordanian identities are formed through their cuisine. Learning about traditional

Jordanian food

Riet Versteeg Remembers

Those who have visited ACOR regularly have probably met Riet Versteeg who comes for an extended stay every year and volunteers to help out. In conversations with her, one learns that over the years she participated in many of the well-known excavations in the region. Riet, a Dutch native, recalls



that when she was about ten years old her mother gave her a book written by Lady Margaret Wheeler about life on the excavation at Jericho. Lady Wheeler, the third wife of Sir Mortimer Wheeler, was a draftsman at Jericho; she and Riet would later meet. The book sparked Riet's interest.

At the University of Leiden she chose history as a major as it was possible to study archaeology as part of history. One of her courses was on Palestinian archaeology with Henk Franken, and in 1963, he arranged for her to participate in the excavations of Kathleen Kenyon in Jerusalem. This was a very large project with 350 laborers and 25 to 30 trench supervisors. The co-directors were A. Douglas Tushingham and Father Roland de Vaux. Father De Vaux had been given special permission by the Ministry of Religious Affairs to excavate next to the al-Aqsa Mosque. The laborers would pass Riet's trench (Site M) on their way up there to pray on Fridays. They would take her with them, and she would wait for them outside, at De Vaux's excavation, enjoying a lemonade. Riet remembers that Kathleen Kenyon would visit the trenches twice a day and give direction. Kenyon drew the main section in every trench herself while the supervisor measured and explained to Kenyon what was being shown. Riet says, "She was a good teacher and she was very nice to me because we both liked dogs." Riet would spend three seasons with Kenyon, the last being in 1967.

In 1963, Diana Kirkbride asked Kenyon to recommend "two girls in excellent health who are not too stupid." She needed them to work at Beidha. Kay Prag and Riet were chosen.

There was no road to Beidha so we would walk through the city of Petra, past Qasr al-Bint and then through the wadi to Beidha. It took more than two hours. At Beidha we camped next to the Neolithic site. Everything had to be brought in by that long route. Because of the distance, water was the most expensive of the supplies. We were only three women on the staff and we learned to manage showers on one jerry can of water for the three of us. We had a wonderful cook, Mohammed Farah, a relative of Omar Jibril, the famous cook of the Albright in Jerusalem. Mohammed would even do French fries! Oct. 22 was Diana Kirkbride's birthday and he managed a cake with pink icing. The next day, it was my birthday, and I got a cake with "poisonous green" icing—I was 24.

Kay Prag and I wanted to see Sabra, a very long walk from Beidha. One Friday, our day off, we went off without telling Diana where we were going. At Qasr al-Bint, we

hired donkeys and began the ride to Sabra—along crumbling cliffs. It was so far that when we got back, we were late for an invitation by one of the Amareen sheikhs. Diana was not happy!

In the trench I supervised at Beidha, we uncovered a rectangular structure with six rooms; these were later interpreted as workshops.

Riet returned to Beidha in 1964 and was supposed to go back in 1983, but there were no boats from Istanbul to Latakia, Riet's usual route, because she will not fly. In the 1960s, she also worked with the Dutch excavation under Henk Franken at Deir Allah. "There, as at Jerusalem, Beidha, and Buseira, many of the laborers were 'Jericho men' and I learned a lot from them—how to identify floors and foundation trenches." Almost all of Franken's students were in theology, and Riet (who was not) remembers that he used to say, "We are not digging to prove the Bible is right, but should we find something that does prove it, that would be nice."

During this period, Riet received her M.A. in History. She would teach ancient history part time at the U. of Amsterdam and also taught as a substitute in the pre-history of Europe.

Crystal Bennett had also been digging with Kathleen Kenyon and in 1966, Riet drove with her from Jerusalem to Holland and then Bennett was to continue to Great Britain.

It was quite a trip with Thomas Holland and Simon Bennett, Crystal's son, also in the car; Simon had his pet Kestrel [a very large bird] and Crystal her dachshund. The dog faced a 6-month quarantine before it could enter Great Britain so Crystal was intent on smuggling the dog in. She was not successful so the dog stayed in Holland with me.

Riet would excavate with Bennett for a full season (1980) at Busayra, and she participated for brief periods in Bennett's projects at Umm al-Biyara in Petra (1963), on the Citadel of Amman in the 1970s, and Tawilan (1982); "When I arrived at Tawilan, a cuneiform tablet had been found, the first found in Jordan; I was there when it was packaged to travel by diplomatic pouch to Oxford to be restored." Crystal Bennett rented a house in Amman for participants in the Citadel project (the residence would later house the British Institute). "Both Crystal and Diana spent a lot of money on food for their excavators; they felt that if you worked for eight hours in the sun, you have to have good food." Riet visited Amman regularly and began to stay at ACOR in the early 1990s.

Riet also participated in the International Jerash Project in 1982. "For that project, which had many international groups participating, washers and dryers were ordered for each group. The dryers arrived, but the washers didn't—if you know Jordan, you know that it's so dry here that you don't need a dryer!" Riet worked at the Northern Theater under Julian Bowsher and Robert Faulkner. "My teaching schedule and then early retirement allowed me to participate in many projects—I worked with Thomas Holland at Tell es-Sweyhat, an Early Bronze Age site in Syria, in 1974, with A.C. Killack at Udruh near Petra in 1981, and at Khirbet Salameh with Pierre Bikai in 1998." Riet has been to the Middle East almost every year since 1963, "and I'll continue to come because I like it here—I especially like the people!"

Patricia M. Bikai

Director's Report: July through December 2004

Pierre M. Bikai

ACOR Projects

Baptism Site Documentation Project, Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos and the Department of Antiquities of Jordan

Beidha Excavation Project, ACOR, Patricia Bikai, Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos, Shari Saunders, and Naif Zaban, USAID Petra Endowment

Petra, Petra Mapping Project, ACOR and Hashemite University, USAID Petra Endowment

Petra Scrolls Project, U. of Michigan: Traianos Gagos, Nikos Litinas, and Terrence Szymanski; U. of Helsinki: Matias Buchholz

Fellows in Residence

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow:

Rochelle Davis, Stanford U., Palestinians in Jordan and Memories of Village Life Before 1948

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

Megan Perry, East Carolina U., Bioarchaeology of the Roman Near East

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



Pierre Bikai and H.R.H. Prince Hassan flanked by fellows David Patel on the left and Algis Uzdaviny on the right

Jason Rech, Miami U., Survey of Late Quaternary Wetland Deposits in Western Jordan

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

Kimberly Cavanagh, U. of South Carolina, Dishing up the Real and the Imagined: Examining Jordanian Ethnic Identity and Social Relationships through Cuisine

Elena Dodge Corbett, U. of Chicago, Jordan First: Archae-

ology and Perceptions of National Identity in Jordan

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

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

Joseph Livingston, U. of Texas, Role of Socioeconomic Status on Palestinian Political Behavior

David McDonald, U. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Music and Palestinian Nationalism

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

Terrence David Szymanski, U. of Michigan, Petra Papyri

Cheri Lynne Williams, North Carolina State U., Egyptian Red Slip Pottery in Jordan and Palestine during the Byzantine Period

Andrew W. Mellon Fellows:

Algis Uzdaviny, Lithuanian Institute of Culture, Philosophy, and Arts, Nabataean Religion and Art

Tomasz Waliszewski, Warsaw U., Green Gold? Olive Oil Production in the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Transjordan

Jennifer C. Groot Fellows:

Ian Babbitt, Queen's U., Humayma Excavation Project

Steven Edwards, Bishop's U., Wadi ath-Thamad Project

Miranda Robinson, U. of Victoria, Humayma Excavation Project

Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellow:

Juan Manuel Tebes, U. of Buenos Aires, The Socioeconomical Evolution of the Negev and Southern Jordan in the Iron Age

Kenneth W. Russell Fellow:

Robert Patterson, Jr., East Carolina U., 2005 Petra North Ridge/Wadi Ramm Cemetery Survey 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
Burton MacDonald, St. Francis Xavier U., Ayl to Ras an-Naqb Archaeological Project

Cheryl Makarewicz, Harvard U., el-Hemmeh Excavation Project

John Oleson, U. of Victoria, Humayma Excavation Project

Lectures

Jan. 3. Khaled Nusseibeh, Ubada Center, What is Islam?

Jan. 3. Abdul Majid Nusayr, Jordan U. of Science & Technology, Relations between Muslims and Non-Muslims

Jan. 3. Abdul Majid Nusayr, Jordan U. of Science & Technology, Islamic Economics

Jan. 4. Betty Anderson, Boston U., The U.S. and the Arabs

Jan. 4. Rosemary Bdeir, Living in Jordan

Jan. 5. Widad Kawar, ACOR, Traditional Arab Textiles

Jan. 6. HRH Prince Hassan, Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies, The Three Monotheistic Faiths in the Middle East

Jan. 11. Abla Amawi, United Nations Development Program, Modern History of Jordan.

Jan. 11. H.E. Abdulelah Khatib, The Peace Treaty and the Arab Israeli Conflict

Jan. 12. Ali al-Rabai, Al al-Bayt U., Arab Culture and Literature

Jan. 12. Khaled Nusseibeh, Ubada Center, A Poetry Reading

Jan. 13. Ghazi Bisheh, The Late Byzantine/Early Islamic Transitional Period

Jan. 13. Senator Leila Sharaf, Jordanian Senate, How to Salvage Arab-American Relations

Jan. 15. Amjed Qursha, U. of Jordan, Women in Islam

Jan. 15. Cheryl Sukhtien, American Task Force on Palestine, The American Task Force on Palestine

Jan. 16. Jumana Kawar, Darat al-Funun, Modern Jordanian Art

Jan. 16. Mater Saqer, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East-Jordan Field Office, The Palestinian Refugee Situation in Jordan

Jan. 17. David Hale, U.S. Embassy, Jordan, U.S. Policy in the Region

Feb. 19. Elise Friedland, Rollins College, Bathing-Imperial Style-in Roman Jordan: the Marble Sculptures from the East Baths at Jerash

Happenings at ACOR

Jan. 1. ACOR staff, residents, and friends enjoy a festive brunch to celebrate the New Year.

Jan. 2. Pierre takes the *Teaching about Islam and Middle Eastern Culture* seminar group on a tour of Jerash, Ajlun and Um Qais.

Jan. 6. Kurt takes the seminar group to a friend's house in Madaba, where they are served a sumptuous feast of uzzu and maglouba.

Jan. 7. Kurt and the seminar group depart for Wadi Musa (Petra), where they meet Pierre, who was already down there to give a tour for a US Congressional Delegation including Reps. Kay Granger (R-TX), Ellen Tauscher (D-CA), Judy Biggert (R-IL), and John Shimkus (R-IL).

Jan. 14. Pierre and the seminar group go east to tour Jordan's beautiful desert castles.

Jan. 17. ACOR staff bid farewell to the seminar group at an evening reception. With assistance from the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) and funding from the U.S. Department of State, ACOR's second seminar on *Teaching about Islam and Middle Eastern Culture* was a tremendous success.

Jan. 29. Pierre gives a tour of ACOR for the a group from the Cincinnati Art Museum.

Jan. 31. Patricia begins directing a *Workshop on Field Archaeology* for six Jordanian archaeology students. She and Megan Perry give classes on pottery drawing and bioarchaeology.

Feb. 1. Pierre and Elise Friedland, an ACOR-CAORC fellow,

participate in a workshop entitled "The Role of Museums in Tourism: Tourism Development through Museum Activities" Project sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Feb. 7. ACOR becomes a non-smoking environment in all public areas.

Feb. 8. Amman receives an inch of snow in the morning. Everyone turns up for work but is sent home an hour later.

Feb. 22. Hashemite University begins a three week training course that provides four Jordanian employees of the Department of Antiquities, Petra office, with the skills to use the GIS digitized map of Petra. ACOR collaborated with Hashemite U. and the Dept. of Antiquities on this training program.

Mar. 4. Pierre takes a group from the Friends of Archaeology on a tour of Aqaba.

Mar. 6. Journalists from Michigan come to ACOR to discuss the *Petra: Lost City of Stone* exhibit that will be held at Calvin College.

Mar. 8. Pierre takes a group from USAID, including director Anne Aarnes, on a tour of Petra and Shobak.

Mar. 24. A tour group from the Landmine Survivors Network



HRH Prince Mired bin Raad and Pierre Bikai flanked by the founders of Landmine Survivors Network, Jerry White (left) and Ken Rutherford (right)

visits ACOR. Pierre takes them down to Petra later in the day.

April 8. ACOR hosts the first day of a four-day *BookAccess* training program funded by USAID and administered by the Mississippi Consortium for International Development.

April 12. Pierre and Patricia attend the opening of the *Petra: Lost City of Stone* exhibit at Calvin College.

April 19. Kurt gives a tour of ACOR to a tour group organized by former fellow Denise Schmandt Bisserat.

April 25. HE Ekaterine Meiering-Mikadze, Ambassador of



The field archaeology workshop



The "Blue Pulpit" in the exhibit at Calvin College

Georgia, visits ACOR.

April 29. Patricia leaves for Petra to begin her spring season of the Beidha Excavation Project. During excavations, they uncover the remarkable remains of a 1st century Nabataean building, including 22 stone heads of ancient gods, which were used to adorn the structure's column capitals.

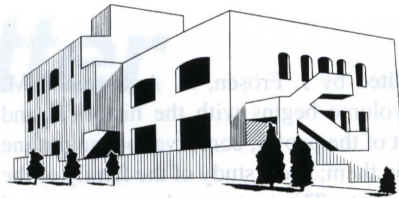
May 8. ACOR hosts the first day of an intensive six-day training workshop on library cataloging standards and technology for the Online Computer Library Center. The workshop is part of *Raising the Bar: Legal Education*

Reform in Iraq, a collaborative project overseen by the International Human Rights Law Institute of DePaul University College of Law.

May 14. In coordination with the Institut Français de Proche Orient, ACOR hosts a roundtable on *Exercising Power in the Age of the Sultanates: Age of the Sultanates in Bilad al-Sham and Iran*.

May 24. HRH Prince Hassan and a group from the Royal Institute of Interfaith Studies visit ACOR for a tour and lecture.

May 31. As part of the *Getty Conservation Institute/World Monuments Fund Iraq Cultural Heritage Conservation Initiative*, ACOR hosts the first day of a 10-day training session on surveying techniques for eight Iraqi archaeologists, surveyors and engineers.



The new addition blends in so well with the original building (drawing above) that it is hard to see.

June 2. Barbara Porter, the new director of ACOR who will officially begin on March 1, 2006, arrives to visit ACOR.

June 8. The ACOR Board of Trustees, Jordan Committee, holds a meeting to welcome Barbara and to officially open the new hostel floors, construction of which was funded by USAID-ASHA.



The organizers of the "Sultanates" round table: former ACOR fellow Bethany Walker and Jean François Salles, director of the Institut Français du Proche-Orient (IFPO) in Amman

Donors to ACOR

During January through June 2005, the following friends of ACOR made donations:

General Donations were made by Martha Boling-Risser, David Cavey, Carol and Harold Forshey, Eloisa Haudenschild, Artemis and Martha Joukowsky (Joukowsky Family Foundation), Widad Kawar, Lys Marigold, Jean Peyrat, Leila Sharaf, Cheryl Sukhtien, Courtney Finch Taylor, and Gough Thompson.

The Anne Ogilvy Memorial Library Endowment received donations from Aina and Roger Boraas.

A donation to the Petra Church Conservation Endowment was received from Joan Barker.

The Kenneth Russell Memorial Fellowship Endowment received a donation from Glen Peterman.

A donation to the Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship Endowment was received from Bert and Sally de Vries.

The MacDonald/Sampson Fellowship Endowment received a donation from Burton MacDonald and Rosemarie Sampson.

The James Sauer Fellowship Endowment received a donation from Peggie Abujaber.

A donation to the Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship Endowment was received from Connie and Terry Christensen.

Donations of books and journals were received from Zohdi Abdel Fatteh, Talal Akasheh, Ahmad Oweidi al-Abbadi, Badi' al-Abed, Patricia and Pierre Bikai, José María

Blázquez, Michelle Bonogofsky, Barbara Bruni, Cari Jo Clark, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (courtesy of Jacques Seigne), Rochelle Davis, Shelby Davis, Department of Antiquities of Jordan (courtesy of Fawzi Zayadine), Bert de Vries, Farouk Omar Fawzi, French Embassy in Amman (courtesy of M. Casa), Elise Friedland, Meryle Gaston, Getty Conservation Institute (courtesy of David Myers), German Embassy in Amman (courtesy of Senta Rudolph), German Protestant Institute of Archaeology (courtesy of Jutta Haser), Saleh Hamarneh, Instituto de Historia Antigua Oriental (courtesy of Alicia Daneri Rodrigo), Abbas Khamash, Øystein LaBianca, Thomas E. Levy, Ellen Lust-Okar, Sultan Maani, Fatma Marii, Burton MacDonald, E.M. Macierowski, Adel Mannah, Robert Mittelstaedt, April Nowell, Khaled Nusseibeh, John Oleson, Deborah Olszewski, Orient Institut der Deutschen Morgenlandischen Gesellschaft, S. Thomas Parker, Andrew Petersen, Barbara Porter, Nahad Abdel Rasah Quasi, Gary Rollefson, Christopher A. Rollston, Benjamin Adam Saidel, Mario Santana Quintero, James Schryver, Jacques Seigne, Ann Irvine Steinsapir, Eva M. Synek, Juan Manuel Tebes, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (courtesy of Matar Saqer), Algis Uzdavinys, Francois Villeneuve, Tomasz Waliszewski, Henry Wright, and Fawzi Zayadine.

Special thanks to Vivian Ronay who donated postcards and CDs of her photography work.

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, paperback) 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.

May 2005 Board Meeting

The ACOR Board of Trustees held their annual spring meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, on April 16, 2005. Barbara Porter, the director designate, was introduced to the members of the board.

ACOR Trustees

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Contents

The Ayl to Ras an-Naqb Archaeological Survey	1
Documenting Nabataean Cemeteries in Southern Jordan ..	3
Petra Great Temple	4
Ya'amun	5
Dishing Up the Imagined: Examining the Bedouin-ization of Jordan's National Identity for Tourism through Cuisine and Hospitality	6
Riet Versteeg Remembers	8
Director's Report:	9
Pierre M. Bikai	9
ACOR Projects	9
Fellows in Residence	9
ACOR-Assisted Projects	9
Lectures	9
Happenings at ACOR	10
Donors to ACOR	11
Publications	12
May 2005 Board Meeting	12
ACOR Trustees	12

ACOR and its Newsletter

ACOR, the American Center of Oriental Research, is a nonprofit academic institute whose services are supported through endowments, donations and grants. ACOR is tax exempt as a 501(c)(3) organization, as determined by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. Inquiries may be sent to ACOR, P.O. Box 2470, Amman 11181, Jordan, Tel.: (962-6) 534-6117, Fax: (962-6) 534-4181, e-mail: ACOR@go.com.jo, or to ACOR, Boston University, 656 Beacon St., 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02215-2010, Tel.: 617-353-6571, Fax: 617-353-6575, e-mail: acor@bu.edu. The *ACOR Newsletter* is edited by Patricia M. Bikai and Kurt Zamora. Printed in Jordan by National Press.