

# ACOR Newsletter

## أخبار أكور



Vol. 17.2—Winter 2005

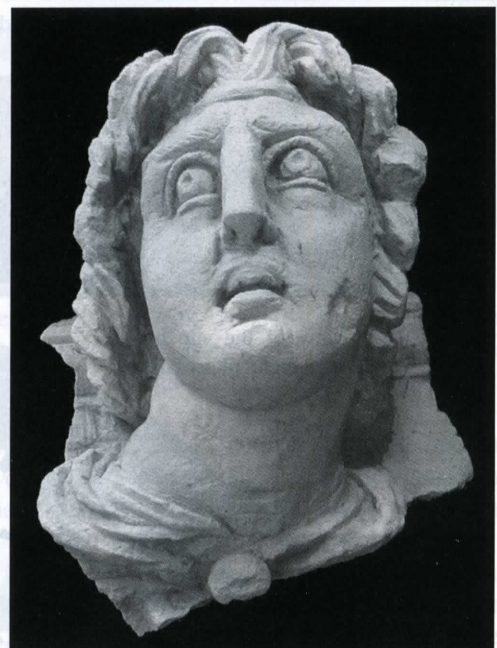
### The High Place at Beidha

*Patricia M. Bikai,  
Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos,  
& Shari Saunders*

The Beidha Documentation Project has yielded a number of unexpected discoveries: a probable Nabataean shrine in the midst of a vineyard, Crusader-era housing, a medieval mosque, and a Byzantine church, but there was one more surprise in store for us. The overall objective of the project is to document an area defined by the highway in the east, Siq al-Barid in the west, Siq al-Amṭi in the north, and the wadi in the south. In May 2005, as the project neared its end, only one area remained to be documented, a high bedrock formation in the east of the study area. The strategy for documenting this was the same as it had been elsewhere: minimal clearance, mainly of windblown sand and other late debris, in order to define major installations.

On May 5, parts of two capitals with heads of Medusa carved on them in low relief were found during clearance.

On May 7, at the eastern end of the formation, a sandstone head in the round measuring about 14 cm in height was recovered. The next day a second head, that of the child Dionysos, was



Left: recreation by C. Kanellopoulos of the interior of the main hall; right: head of Ampelos, a companion of Dionysos; photo by P. M. Bikai



found. On May 9, another six heads were recovered, and seven capital parts also appeared. Two of the capitals had heads still attached to them. By now there was a realization that the heads had all been parts of capitals and were portraying Graeco-Roman gods. In the end there would be a total of 30 heads and 18 capitals. While there were some column drums and cornices recovered, there was a notable paucity of building materials to accompany the capitals; there were no bases and, most importantly, there were very few ashlar blocks. The architectural elements were coming from a long, relatively narrow (ca. 3.75 m wide) cut into bedrock. It was very difficult to see how the capitals would have been

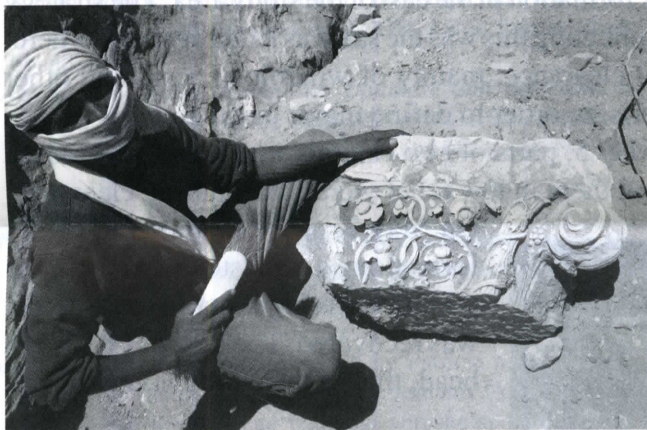


Tahani al-Salhi holds the head of the child Dionysos; photo by S. Saunders.

used in such a space, and it quickly became clear that the bedrock cut was the basement or cryptoporticus of a building that had been located above it; nothing remained of that building. It had literally been taken away at some point but, for whatever reason, those who removed the materials had no use



Architectural elements appearing in the western part of the cryptoporticus excavation; photo by F. Parsons



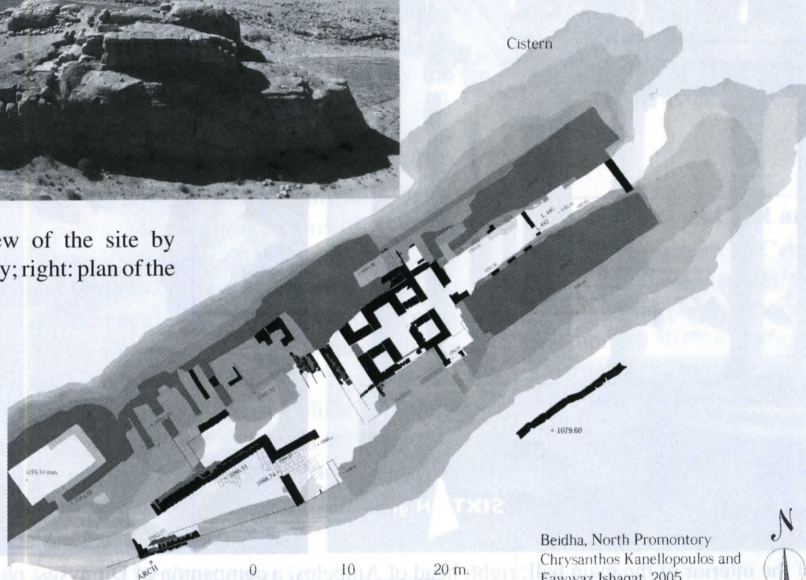
Corinthian capital as discovered; photo by S. Saunders



View to the west of the promontory; photo by F. Parsons



Above: aerial view of the site by A.A.W. Joukowsky; right: plan of the site



Beidha, North Promontory  
Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos and  
Fawwaz Ishaqat, 2005

for the capitals with their heads, and they fell or were pushed into the cryptoporticus.

Work continued in September of 2005 and a great deal is now understood about the architecture of the complex—a complex that covers all of the bedrock formation. It was entered from the west and much of the approach leading to the top is in relatively good condition; it begins with a paved walkway leading to a gate. The walkway was ca. 4 m wide N/S and 6 m of its length is still extant, but it may have been well over 12 m in length E/W. Beyond the gate, which is in a wall that is 1 m in thickness, is an area that may





Head of Isis; photo by P.M. Bikai

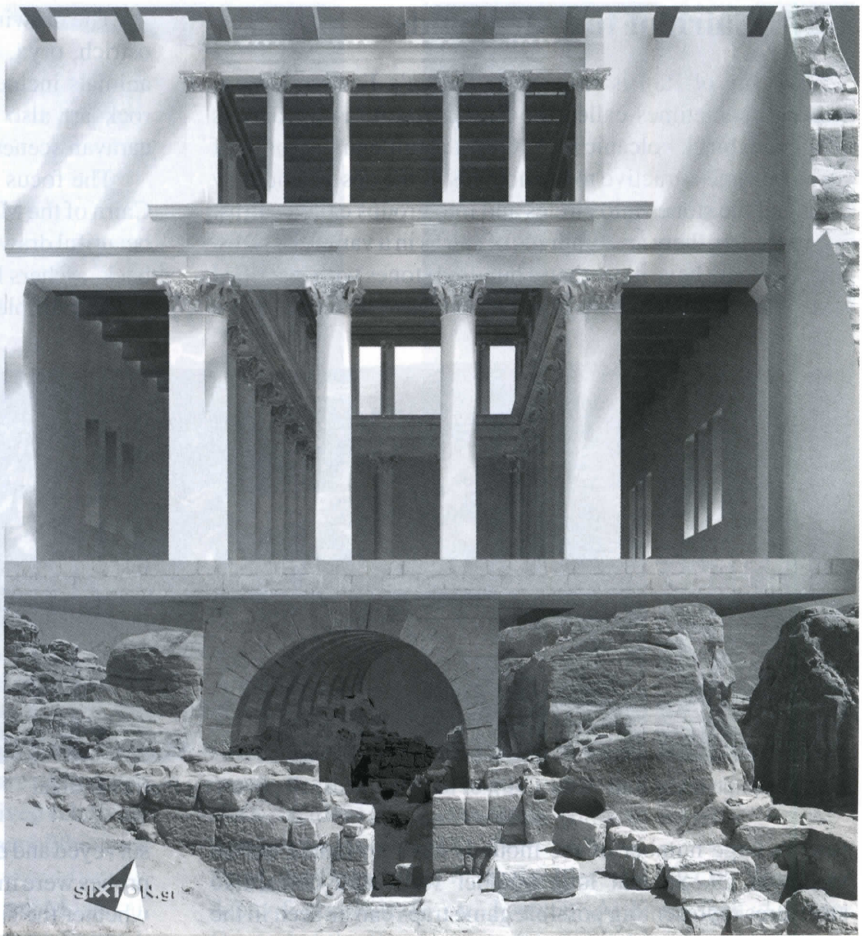
have been roofed; it has a bench to the south. From the north part of that area a broad flight of steps leads to the building at the top of the formation. From the south part of the area, there was apparently another access that led to service rooms under the main building.

At the top of the steps, there may have been a courtyard. East of this area and west of the cryptoporticus, which was under the main hall, is a series of vaulted rooms the total length of which is 14.8 m and the width of which is 15.4 m. These rooms appear to have supported the atrium of the main hall. This area, west of the main hall, may have featured Ionic capitals and, perhaps as parts of window frames, had Ionic capitals with elephant heads as volutes.

Finally, to the east, is the long cryptoporticus or basement (ca. 28 m) cut into bedrock. Above the cryptoporticus was a hall featuring the capitals with heads. In the upper level of the hall, there was another, smaller colonnade that featured small capitals with the heads of lions as volutes and heads of deities as bosses. The entry to the hall may have included Corinthian-style capitals decorated with the heads of Medusa at the end of the abacus, and with pinecones as bosses. When the building was dismantled, the capitals with their heads and a few other pieces of the building were pushed or fell into the cryptoporticus where, over the centuries, they were covered with windblown sand.

North and west of the main building is a series of rooms that may have served as baths or kitchens. Preliminary dating of the materials recovered indicates that the structure may have been built in the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C., and it appears that the building went out of use and was dismantled in the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. The purpose of the building is not yet certain. The finds and the richness of the decoration suggest that it may be an elite residence that included a banqueting hall.

Staff in 2005 consisted of Patricia M. Bikai, director; Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos, architect; Shari Saunders, archaeologist; Julia Costello, archaeologist; Fraser Parsons, site engineer; Fawwaz Isaqat, surveyor (Hashemite U.); and Tahani al-Salhi, representative of the Department of Antiquities.



Composite view to the east of the extant remains of the cryptoporticus with a restoration of the main hall by C. Kanellopoulos



Capital with a head of Pan; photo by Patricia M. Bikai

Students were Ala'a al-Deek, Najd Sweidan, and Aysha Shoman. Volunteers were: Riet Versteeg, Sally de Vries, Karen Asfour, Peggie Abujaber, Joyce Kasim, and Christopher Tuttle.

ACOR thanks Dr. Fawwaz Al-Khraysheh, Director of the Department of Antiquities, Suleiman Farajat, Director of the Petra Archaeological Park, Dr. Talal Akasheh (Hashemite University), and the Petra Region Authority for their help.

Support for the Beidha Project came from the Khalid Shoman Foundation, Dick and Betsy DeVos Foundation, ACOR's USAID Endowment (a grant from the United States Agency for International Development), and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC).



## Rajl: Cairn of the Mermaids

The site of Rajl is situated in Jordan's Eastern Desert, which is sometimes called the Black Desert, as the area is filled with black volcanic rock. Over the millennia, groups of rocks became attractive to the nomads of the desert, and they arranged the stones into circles and into groups called cairns.

In Jordan, there are hundreds of cairns in a variety of sizes. Some of them have more than a hundred stones with inscribed texts and figures on them while others have no more than a

The drawings on the stones include wild animals such as ostrich, oryx, deer, onager, felines, and ibex. Domesticated animals include camel, horse, dog, donkey, and sheep. The rock art also includes men, women, hunting scenes, and caravan scenes.

The focus of this project is Wadi Rajl-3, nicknamed the Cairn of the Mermaids. This is a spectacular rock art site, with beautiful drawings of animals, men, women, figures on horseback, archers hunting, oryxes, lions, ibexes, etc.

In multiple trips to the site beginning in 2002, it has been



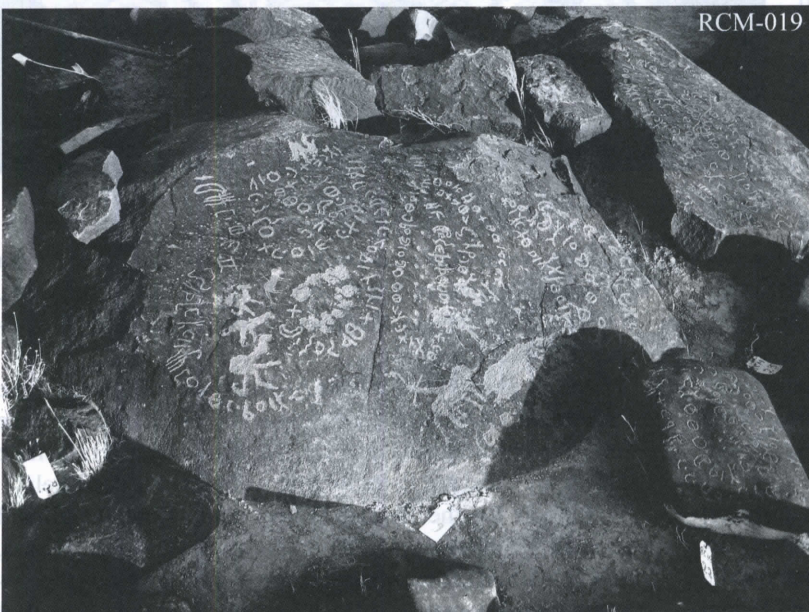
Composite photo of Rajl-3, the Cairn of the Mermaids; all photos by Pierre M. Bikai

few. A large number of the mounds have no marks on the stones at all. Several long boulder walls and corral-like structures representing possible game traps can be seen in the vicinity of some of these installations.

The cairns themselves are cone-shaped piles of stones. They can be of different sizes but average around 5 m in diameter and 1.5 m in height. The function of these cairns is not yet established. Some investigators believe they are a sort of desert lighthouse, others think they may be rallying points, camping sites, or burial places.

surveyed and documented. In August of 2005, a number of test probes were made by Jerome C. Rose in an effort to determine whether the site was used for burials, but none were found.

There are 79 different documented inscribed texts. The largest one has 84 letters. Most of the texts are associated with drawings but some have only text. Tribal marks and the Pleiades (seven dots) are also included in some drawings. So far the main name list includes no less than 120 different persons, 74 of them belonging to one family consisting of 13 generations. A second list can be made from three texts with

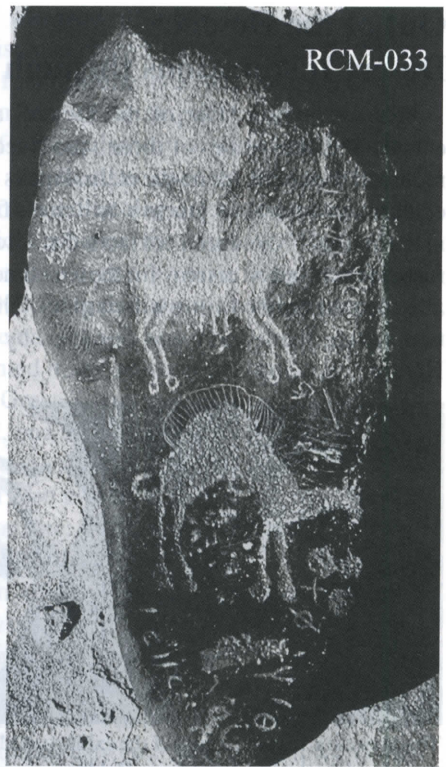
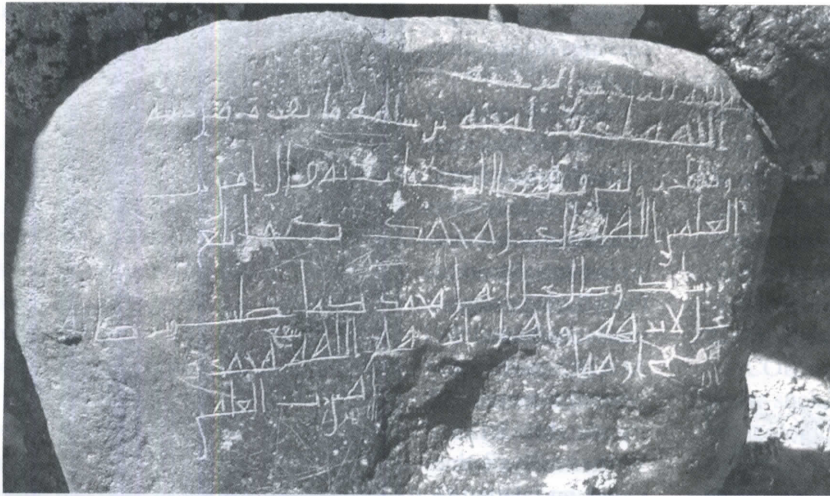


Herding scene and five separate texts



Caravan scene





Kufic text from a site near the Cairn of the Mermaids

nine different names from the tribe of 'mn and a third list from one text that gives 14 generations. The texts of the Cairn of the Mermaids are in Safaitic. However, at other cairns nearby, there are texts from different eras including some in early Arabic in Kufic script, indicating a late period, perhaps the eighth century, and there are other Arabic texts that are probably even later, perhaps extending into modern times.

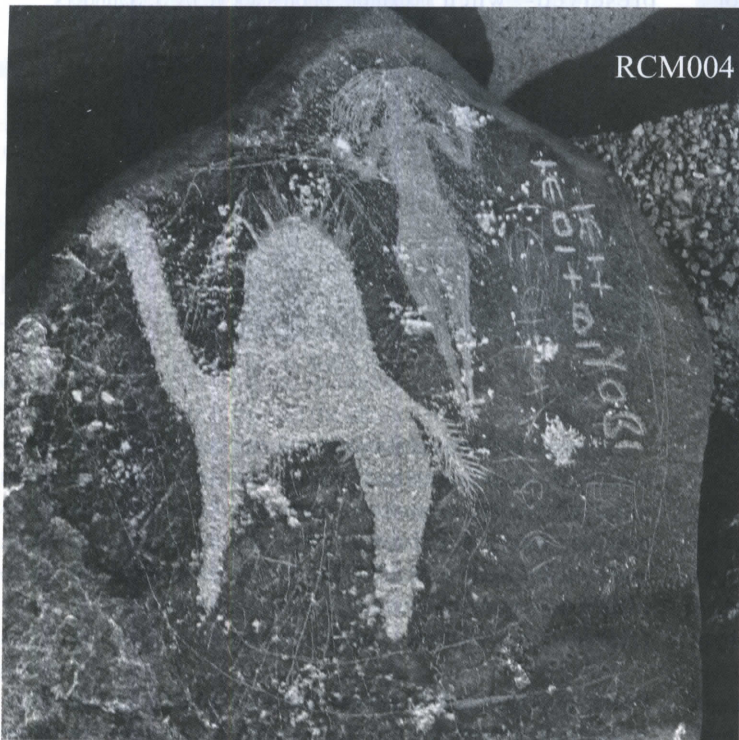
The peoples who created this rock art are the desert nomads of late antiquity, a group that has received relatively little attention in Jordan. Certainly, the existence of this rock art is known to only a few.

The participants in the project were: Pierre M. Bikai, director; Jerome C. Rose, physical anthropologist; Philip J. Wilke, prehistorian; Ahmad Al-Momani and Jihad Kafafi, documentation; Fawwaz Isaqat, surveyor; and Nancy Coinman,

Mansour Hamati, Adam Messer, Maria Hajnalova, and Christopher Tuttle, photographers. Support for the project

came from the IRG Cultural Preservation Fund, the Department of Antiquities, and ACOR. We owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Fawwaz Al-Khraysheh, Director General of the Department of Antiquities and to Salem Diab, representative of the Department of Antiquities at the site. Pierre M. Bikai, ACOR

The text on this stone explains that the horse and the camel portrayed are gifts.



Camel and a woman

A woman and seven stars, the Pleiades



## Out of the Desert: Desert Inspirations through Time

The exhibition “Out of the Desert” at Darat al Funun echoes with the voices of those who lived in the desert and recorded their heritage on the eternal rocks of Jordan. A visual celebration of man’s journey in time—from Nabataean to modern day—Nabataean artifacts, Safaitic stones, and papyrus scrolls are all on display for the first time at Darat al Funun, allowing the public to relive their glory. The inspired installation setting them apart was designed by architect Sahel al Hiyari.



The invitation to the opening of the exhibit on May 10, 2006, featured the site of Rajl and a head from Beidha.

These archaeological installations highlight the latest antiquities discovered at the sites of Beidha and Rajl. In Beidha, a nomadic group appeared who, by the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C., had established themselves as the masters of one of antiquity’s major trade routes. The site of Beidha, about 10 km north of Petra, was a place where wine was produced; it also seems to have served as a retreat for the citizens of Petra. In May 2005, after three years of excavations in Beidha, directed by Dr. Patricia Bikai (ACOR), 30 stone heads and a number of capitals were unearthed. These pieces are believed to have decorated a banquet hall dating to the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C., and are now on display for the first time.

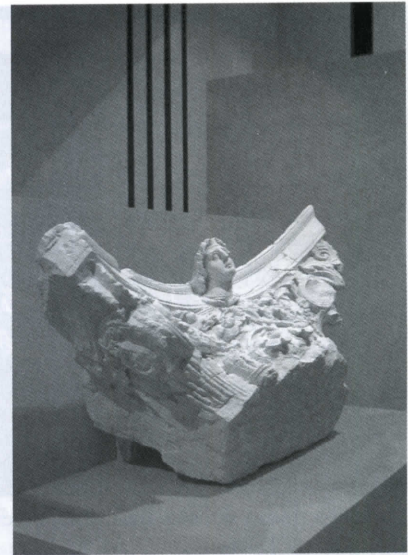


H.R.H. Princess Sumaya and Suha Shoman greet members of the Amareen tribe from Beidha at the opening of the exhibit; photo by C.A. Tuttle.

Jordan’s Eastern Desert inspired nomads over millennia, and the rocks of Rajl are outstanding examples of rock art. The stones, arranged into circles and mounded groups called

cairns, often had carvings of texts and figures.

Also on display is “The Khalid and Suha Shoman Petra Scroll.” This is part of a group of ancient documents found at Petra during excavations conducted by ACOR under the general direction of Pierre M. Bikai. Written in Byzantine Greek and dating to the 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D., the scrolls contain unique evidence of the history and development of the Arabic language; many of the personal names on the scrolls, although written in Greek, are in fact Semitic or, more specifically, Arabic. The scrolls were stored in a room adjacent to the Petra Church and were carbonized—and thus preserved—when the church burned.



A capital from Beidha in the exhibit



Nisreen Abu Al-Sheikh, Pat Masri, and Humi Ayoubi in the Rajl room of the exhibit; photos above by S. Saunders



Patricia and Pierre Bikai with some of the Beidha heads; photo by C.A. Tuttle

Alongside these exhibits are contemporary inspirations by the desert, including art by Hakim Jamain and Suha Shoman’s video art “*I am everywhere*,” which is “a reflection on the opposite forces of existence, presence and absence, visible and invisible, fear and faith.” The film resonates with the spirit of Beidha where the silent rocks echo with life.

*[Edited extract from the exhibit brochure]*

Pierre and Patricia Bikai thank Suha Shoman for creating this wonderful opportunity for the people of Jordan to see these new discoveries.



## Pierre and Patricia Bikai: Fifteen Years at ACOR (1991-2006)

When Pierre and Patricia arrived at ACOR in 1991, they were almost unknown to the ACOR community. Their scholarly work had concentrated on Lebanon: Pierre on dendrochronology of the Cedars of Lebanon and Patricia on the Phoenicians. When the Board announced its decision to select Pierre as the new director, his extensive archaeological field experience was cited. He had been the manager of the Tyre excavations in Lebanon from 1967 to 1976 and had also participated in excavations in Turkey, the Azores, Iraq, Egypt, Syria, and at Pella in Jordan. Pierre received his doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley. The Bikais met when they were both working on the excavations at Sarafand (ancient Sarepta) in Lebanon in the late 1960s. Patricia excavated



Pierre and Patricia in the office in 1992

at Tyre from 1971 to 1975 and wrote her dissertation for the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley on the ceramic evidence of Tyre, for which she developed an important classification system. In 1978, her thesis was published as *The Pottery of Tyre* (Warminster, 1978).

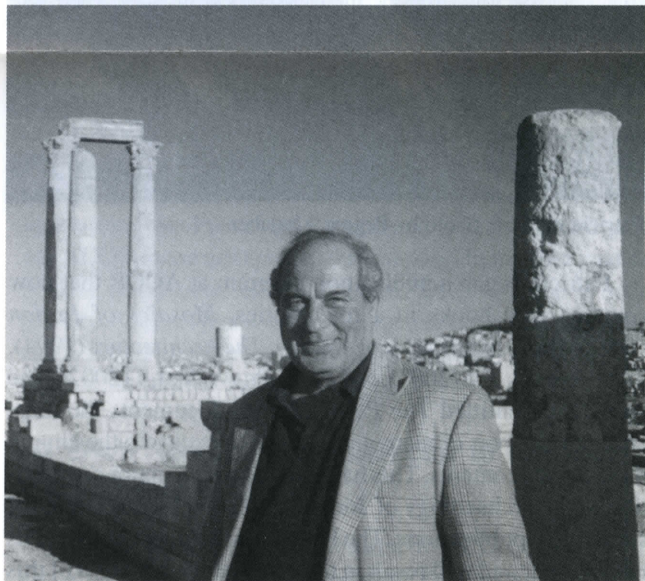
The Bikais came to ACOR after it was shut down during the First Gulf War. They thought that they would stay for two years but in the end they were here for fifteen full years. During their time as director and associate director of ACOR, they raised nearly a million dollars a year for endowments, the building, fellowships, and numerous archaeological projects. During this long tenure and because of those funds, ACOR was able to host around 400 fellows involved in diverse disciplines including Jordanians who have studied in Jordan and abroad. Many of the graduate students who had the chance to be at ACOR have gone on to positions at major institutions. Indeed there is a strong "ACOR" presence at such academic conferences as MESA (Middle East Studies Association) and ASOR (American Schools of Oriental Research). Also, during this period, ACOR supported over 160 archaeological field projects. The impact of those projects continues to be felt, and some 5000 people are estimated to have been involved one way or another.

Pierre has enriched ACOR in many ways. The current building was opened officially in July 1986 during the directorship of David W. McCreery. With much hard work and

effort, the mortgage was paid off a few years after Pierre's arrival. He had the vision to enlarge the building in 2005 with nine new rooms and four apartments so that there are now 20 rooms and six apartments for visiting fellows and scholars. Pierre was a master of making the most of all we have and often managed to host 70 people all at once. In his last year, he organized a more formal archaeological museum and ethnographic section which enhance the building. The ACOR library has grown steadily over the years. When the Bikais arrived there were 5000 volumes and now there are more than 35,000 catalogued items.

ACOR implemented many projects for Jordan under the Bikais; such as the Great Temple of Amman, the Madaba Archaeological Park, and JADIS (*Jordan Antiquities Database Information System*), a tool that has proven invaluable for research in Jordan. These projects were initiated by Bert de Vries, ACOR director from 1988 to 1991.

Other ACOR assisted projects undertaken by Pierre were the Ayyubid Tower in Amman and the presentation of Aqaba/Ayla. Pierre's own projects included excavation and restoration of the Byzantine church at Darat al Funun on Jabal Al-Weibdeh in Amman and the excavation of Khirbet Salameh, located immediately in front of ACOR. The latter served as the site for a field school directed by Pierre and co-sponsored with the University of Jordan. Over the years there have been many formal as well as informal training sessions for Jordanian students conducted by the Bikais.



Pierre on the Amman Citadel in 1996

In terms of Petra, during their tenure ACOR has also played a significant role unearthing and documenting major buildings and structures—the Petra Church, Roman Street, Petra Map Project, the Ridge Church, and Blue Chapel. A whole new area for tourism in Petra has been opened up by virtue of this work.

The Bikais' commitment to conservation and preservation has been manifest in all of their activities in Jordan. The Madaba Archaeological Park has enhanced the tourism potential for that city and provided the necessary protection of the



mosaics from many churches. A joint article in *ACOR Newsletter* Vol. 9.1 (Summer 1997) entitled "Caring for the Cultural Heritage: Shelters" describes the efforts needed to provide the shelters at Madaba and Petra that were built thanks to their efforts and funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

When Pierre received an award in 1995 for his efforts in conservation and cultural preservation, he made a statement about his work in the region to the effect that it "has been a two-pronged attempt to preserve some part of our heritage. First, create preservation projects which can be models for other projects and, secondly, train, train, train the future generation—train them technically so they know how to save a building or a mosaic and train them to view the national heritage as their heritage" (*ACOR Newsletter* Vol. 17.1 [Summer 1995], p. 12).



Patricia in Petra; photo by Peggie Abujaber

Patricia began a publication program at ACOR that now contains four books in a main series, *Mosaics of Jordan* (1992), *The Great Temple of Amman: The Architecture* (1994), *The Petra Church* (2001), and *Petra Papyri* Vol. 1 (2002). The publication entitled *The Petra Church* documents the huge effort on the part of many individuals to excavate the church itself and its contents. This hallmark book is a major contribution to the archaeology of Jordan and has set a precedent for subsequent publications. The Petra Papyri Project is now in its twelfth year and will result in the complete publication of this very important 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D. archive discovered in the Petra Church in December 1993. Two more volumes are nearly completed and the fourth is well on its way. ACOR has also produced five books in a minor series, such as *Madaba: Cultural Heritage* (1996). In the *American Journal of Archaeology*, the article entitled "Archaeology of Jordan" has been published every year since 1991, in the first two years by Bert de Vries and continued ever since under the Bikais with Patricia having been both author and editor.

The *ACOR Newsletter*, started in November 1989, has been published biannually every year. Under Patricia's editorship it has consistently featured important archaeologi-

cal discoveries in Jordan. In the newsletter, Pierre has discussed such endeavors as the Khirbet Salameh Field School (Vol. 4.2, Winter 1992) and the Petra Church Project (Vol. 10.1, Summer 1998). Patricia has written many articles on the excavation work she directed in Petra on the North Ridge; the first article in *ACOR Newsletter* Vol. 6.2 (Winter 1994) and more recently in Vol. 15.1 (Summer 2003). The recent work undertaken by Pierre at Rajl in the Eastern Desert and that of Patricia at Beidha are described in this issue, as is the wonderful exhibit at Darat al Funun featuring their recent discoveries at those sites.

Soon after their arrival in Jordan, Patricia edited the volume *ACOR: The First 25 Years—The American Center of Oriental Research: 1968-1993* (Amman, 1993), which has proven to be an important document on the history of ACOR. Next year in Washington, D.C. the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan (ICHAJ) will take place at George Washington University (May 23-28, 2007). It was Pierre who had the idea to have the conference in the United States for the first time since its inception at Oxford in 1980. This is just one of the many ideas that he has had that have allowed ACOR to assist in the understanding of the cultural heritage of Jordan. In any account of the "Second 25 Years at ACOR" the contributions of Patricia and Pierre Bikai will be inseparable.

Barbara A. Porter, *ACOR*

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#### *Testimonial from the Board of Trustees*

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the American Center of Oriental Research, including our most respected Jordanian members, we pay tribute to Pierre and Patricia Bikai's unconditional devotion to our ACOR. If, as board members, we were to individually recount their innumerable daily contributions to the welfare of ACOR, we would find ourselves overwhelmed with even deeper respect for their strength, leadership, and steadfast fidelity for the past 15 years. Their impact is clearly evident. They are leaving ACOR as a strong, world-class institute, true to its mission to support scholarly research on the past and present human condition in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Under their leadership, it has continued to provide all those seeking a deeper knowledge and understanding of archaeology, anthropology, geography, history, art, and language within an environment that is both academically exciting and socially congenial.

As members of the board, we extend our warmest congratulations and gratitude to Pierre and Patricia for their resolute service to ACOR. They will always be celebrated, not only as part of the history of the center, but as personal friends.

Artemis A.W. Joukowsky, *President*

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None of what is outlined here would have been possible without the help of the ACOR staff and of the ACOR Board of Trustees under the leadership of Artemis A.W. Joukowsky and H.R.H. Prince Raad bin Zeid. Numerous other persons, both in Jordan and elsewhere, have helped us over the years. To all: thank you.

Pierre and Patricia



## ACOR's New Director: Barbara A. Porter

In April 2005, the ACOR Board of Trustees approved my appointment as successor to Pierre Bikai upon his retirement. A press release was posted on ACOR's website in May as a way of introduction to the ACOR community. I received my A.B. from Bryn Mawr College in Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology and my M.A., M. Phil., and Ph.D. from Columbia University's Department of Art History and Archaeology. Edith Porada and Dominique Collon were advisors for my Columbia dissertation entitled "Old Syrian Popular Style Cylinder Seals." By a quirk of fate, my twin sister and I ended up receiving two high school diplomas, one from the American International School in Vienna, Austria, the very school we started in, and the other from the American Community School at Beirut, for which I have served on the Board of Trustees for the past ten years. Because our father, Dwight J. Porter, was a diplomat, we had the chance to live outside the United States. Our mother, Adele Ritchie Porter, was a watercolor artist whose enthusiasm for art and culture was passed down to her six children.



Barbara A. Porter and Christopher A. Tuttle; photo by M. Hajnalova

In terms of my professional career, I taught at New York University in the 1990s for several semesters in the Department of Fine Arts. I was on the curatorial staff of The Metropolitan Museum in New York from 1978 to 1986; first in the Department of Egyptian Art for five years and then the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Art. Since 1986 I have

been affiliated with the museum's Education Department as a gallery lecturer. The Met's Development Department asked me in 1996 to be the lecturer for a tour to Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. That request led to ten years of accompanying archaeological groups across northern Africa and the Middle East from Algeria to Iran. The freelance life that afforded such trips has now ended with my move to Amman from New York City.

My first major visit to Jordan was in April 1967 when I came with my family from Beirut where we lived from 1965 to 1970. Since then there have been many visits but the longest stay was for four months in 1977 when I came to work with Jim Pritchard at Tell es Sa'idiyeh. After that project was not realized, Khair Yassine of the University of Jordan invited the assembled team to work with him for the inaugural season at Tell Mazar. Frequently on weekends we came to ACOR where Jim Sauer was the director. It was memories of the importance of ACOR to our dig life that were in the forefront of my choice to apply for the directorship. My other archaeological work has taken place in England, Austria, Italy, and for two seasons at the site of Tell Leilan in northeastern Syria, a project directed by Harvey Weiss of Yale University.

In June 2005, I visited ACOR for a few weeks to spend time with the Bikais and become familiar with the center. I learned quickly that I would be benefiting from an excellent staff who have dedicated many years to ACOR. I list here by years of service the core group in Amman who have worked for ACOR for more than a decade: Mohamed Adawi (Abu Ahmed), 1968 in Amman but 1960 in Jerusalem; Humi Ayoubi, 1988; Sa'ed Adawi, 1988; Pat Masri, 1990; Kathy Nimri, 1991; Abed Adawi, 1992; and Nisreen Abu Al-Shaikh, 1995.

Given that I have moved far away from many dear friends and family members, I feel fortunate to have joined a new, extended family. I know that I have inherited a wonderful institution from Pierre and Patricia and look forward to guiding ACOR in the next phase of its history. In my first year the ICHAJ conference in Washington, D.C. will be a major priority. This project should give me the chance to meet even more people who are devoted to the heritage of Jordan.

*Barbara A. Porter, ACOR*

## ACOR's New Assistant Director in Amman: Christopher A. Tuttle

Last fall Christopher Tuttle came to ACOR on the prestigious Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellowship. When the Bikais went to the United States for the ACOR board meeting in Philadelphia, Chris was tasked to be the acting assistant director. At that time several of the fellows in residence, as well as a number of his mentors, suggested he apply for the position and as a result he was hired in January 2006. Chris grew up in Vermont and completed his B.A. in classical studies from the University of Massachusetts in Boston. His baccalaureate degree focused primarily on ancient religions and mystery cults, but he also studied the history of heretical movements in medieval Europe.

He has participated in the last two seasons of the Brown University Petra Great Temple Excavation and will work



there again this year with Martha S. Joukowsky for the thirteenth season. As an archaeologist of the Hellenistic and Roman periods in the Middle East, he is in the process of writing his Brown University dissertation on the iconography and functionality of Nabataean figurines. At Brown he was an instructor for Archaeological Field Methods for the Center for Old World Archaeology and Art and curated an exhibit there on "Bronzes: selections from the vault."

Chris has also been an archaeological intern at the *École biblique et archéologique française* in Jerusalem and received some basic training in conservation and restoration of artifacts from Noel Siver at The British School for Archaeology in Jerusalem. In the past few years he has participated in several other archaeological projects in the region and conducted a number of archaeological tours related to Nabataean sites.

Chris brings to ACOR extensive administrative and editing experience from both the academic and private sectors. The assistant director has numerous and varied duties at ACOR, especially now that two people are replacing three in the senior management of the center. Don Keller, the assistant director in Boston, remains intricately connected to our fellowship process. However it is Chris here in Amman who will be answering the many questions we receive daily. He will also follow and pursue the grants that are needed to maintain the viability of the institution. His knowledge of the archaeology of the region and his willingness to help all who come to ACOR are assets to the institution.

Barbara A. Porter, ACOR

Under the Patronage of  
HRH Prince Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan

## 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan

### CROSSING JORDAN

Wednesday, May 23 through  
Monday, May 28, 2007

hosted by

George Washington University  
Elliot School of International Affairs  
Washington, D. C.

Organized by

The American Center of Oriental Research and  
The Department of Antiquities of Jordan

Those wishing to attend or make a donation in support  
of the conference should contact ACOR by email:  
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Presentation abstracts due September 15, 2006

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**Director's Report:  
July through December 2005**

**Pierre M. Bikai**

**ACOR Projects**

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

**Rajl: Cairn of the Mermaids**, Pierre M. Bikai, IRG Cultural Preservation Fund and ACOR's USAID Endowment

**Petra, Petra Mapping Project**, ACOR and Hashemite University, ACOR's USAID Endowment



Pierre Bikai and Talal Akasheh of Hashemite University sign the agreement for the final phase of the Petra Mapping Project

**Fellows in Residence**

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

**Julie Peteet**, University of Louisville; Closure. The Landscape of Human Mobility [Sept.–Dec. 2005]

**Andrew M. Smith II**; Nabataean Identity, Community, and State Formation [Dec. 2005–Mar. 2006]

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

**Glenn Joseph Corbett**, University of Chicago; Locational Analysis of Petroglyphs in the Wadi Hafir of Southern Jordan [Sept. 2005–Jan. 2006]

**Laura Pearl**, University of Michigan; The Personal is Political: Islamic Religious Practice as Political Activism at Yarmouk University, Jordan [completing 2003-2004 fellowship]

**Anne-Marie Pedersen**, University of Louisville; English-Language Writing Practices of Jordanian Research Scholars: Perceptions of Source Use and Documentation [Sept. 2005–Mar. 2006]

**Michael S. Zimmerman**, Brown University; The Hellenistic and Roman Pottery from the Field 1 (Village) Excavations at 'Araq el-Emir, Jordan: A Typological and Comparative Study [Sept. 2005–Jan. 2006]



Rear: Adolfo Muniz, Glenn ("Joey") Corbett, Anne-Marie Pedersen, Michael Zimmerman; Front: Sonya Jenssen, Laura Pearl, Julie Peteet, Christopher Tuttle. Missing: Hannah Friedman, Tsveta Pashova-Salim, Andrew Smith II

*Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellows:*

**Adolfo A. Muniz**, University of California, San Diego; Feeding the Periphery: The Early Bronze Age Environment and Cultural Landscape of the Wadi Faynan, Southern Jordan [Sept. 2005–Jan. 2006]

**Christopher A. Tuttle**, Brown University; Life in Miniature: Figurines as Indicators of the Socio-Religious Culture of

Petra and the Nabataeans [Oct. 2005–Feb. 2006]

*Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow:*

**Tsvetomira Pashova-Salim**, University of St. Kliment Ohridsky / Sofia University, Bulgaria; Multilevel Analysis of the Use of Connectives in Arabic Expository Texts [Sept.–Dec 2005]

*Harrell Family Fellow:*

**Hannah Friedman**, University of Leicester, U.K.; Roman Settlement and Land Use in the Faynan



Tsveta Pashova-Salim during her fellowship presentation

*Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellow:*

**Sonya Jenssen**, University of Bergen, Norway; Evaluation of Project Rainkeep run by Øystein LaBianca [Dec. 2005]

*James A. Sauer Fellow:*

**Hannah Friedman**, University of Leicester, U.K.; Roman Settlement and Land Use in the Faynan [Oct. 2005]

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.



## 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 upon request 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 150<sup>th</sup> 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.

**ACOR's Web Site: [www.bu.edu/acor](http://www.bu.edu/acor)**

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## November 2005 Board Meeting

The ACOR Board of Trustees held their annual fall meeting in Philadelphia on November 18, 2005. The major topics at the meeting were the retirement of the Bikais and the transition to the new director, Barbara A. Porter, as well as planning for the upcoming ICHAJ 10 conference in 2007.

### ACOR Trustees

Class of 2005: Mrs. Nancy Frederick; Dr. Harold Forshey; Mrs. Widad Kawar; 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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