



Winter 2007/8
Volume 57, no. 4

American Schools of Oriental Research Newsletter

ASOR

ASOR at Boston University, 656 Beacon Street, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02215-2010

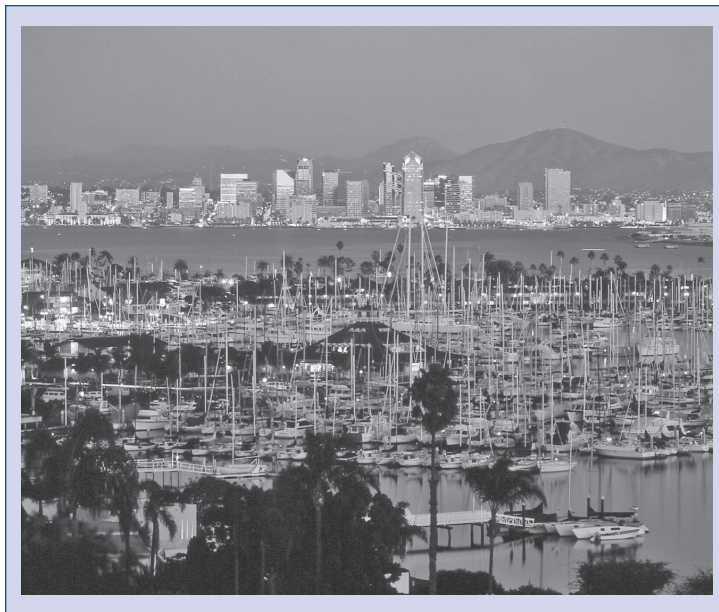
ASOR 2007 ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Jennie Ebeling & Yorke Rowan,
Co-Chairs of Program Committee

If you were among the 548 who attended the 2007 ASOR Annual Meeting, you may still recall the beautiful ocean and marina views from the Sheraton West Tower in San Diego, Jodi Magness' stimulating plenary address on Qumran, and the excellent exhibit on early metallurgy and culture at the Museum of Man. Even if you were in San Diego you may have missed the rescheduling of the *Art and Artifacts of the Ancient Near East* session in order to allow a presenter time to deliver her baby, or were unable to take part in the fascinating roundtable discussion of the place of women in Near Eastern Archaeology, where some of the veterans reminisced about past people and excavations. This overview of ASOR 2007 will note some of the highlights for those who could not be with us in San Diego, were stuck in business meetings most of the time, or were otherwise unable to take in all that this year's jam-packed Annual Meeting had to offer.

The meeting opened on Wednesday evening when the ASOR Southern California Welcome Committee – composed of Norma Kershaw (ASOR and AIAR), David Noel Freedman (UCSD), Tom Levy (UCSD) and Bill Schniedewind (UCLA) – welcomed us to San Diego. Robert Cargill of the UCLA Qumran Visualization Project then gave us an impres-

sive virtual tour of Qumran, setting the stage for Jodi Magness' plenary address, *The Current State of Qumran Archaeology*. One may not have imagined from this innocuous title the scatological nature of her talk, and we would bet that the more than 300 in attendance learned more than they ever hoped to know about privacy concerns among the Essene community. We have already asked several people (no one in our field) if they knew that the people of Qumran did not need to “use the facilities” (literally) on Shabbat and their astonishment, as well as audience reaction, confirms that this was a previously little-known bit of trivia. Jokes aside, Dr. Magness' detailed and engaging lecture reminded us of the importance of investigating all of the available evidence in our research, and kicked off the more than 250 presentations given over the following three days. We thank Jodi for honoring ASOR with her plenary address this year.



and evening events. One of the lunchtime events was *Order and Conflict: Roundtables on the Agency Role of Empires in the Levant*, which served as the inaugural meeting of ASOR's Cross

Many of us from the east coast and Midwest awoke early on Thursday morning as a result of jet-lag and the fabulous light that streamed through our balcony windows. This early wake up call was fortuitous, as Thursday's academic program included twenty diverse academic sessions and several special lunchtime

and evening events. One of the lunchtime events was *Order and Conflict: Roundtables on the Agency Role of Empires in the Levant*, which served as the inaugural meeting of ASOR's Cross

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Border Research Initiative. Chaired by Øystein LaBianca, this event featured well-attended and interesting discussion on empires in early antiquity, the classical era, and the late medieval and modern periods, and we heard much positive feedback about the usefulness of this sort of forum. In part as a result of the success of this event, the Program Committee is adding a new category to the academic program – roundtables/workshops – that will permit more flexibility for information sharing and discussion than can usually be achieved in traditional academic sessions. The other lunchtime event was the third annual Junior Scholars' Workshop and Luncheon, organized by incoming co-Vice President for Programs Morag Kersel. Some fifty students, recent PhDs, and scholars feeling 'young at heart' showed up for a free boxed lunch (generously sponsored by ASOR) featuring incoming co-Vice President for Programs Michael Homan, who gave us his insights on *Presenting the Perfect Paper*. In this presentation, Dr. Homan provided a number of useful tips on how to present successfully at the ASOR Annual Meeting, including advice on how to avoid attacks by senior scholars, standards for facial hair, and paper topics that may or may not help you get a fellowship at one of the Overseas Centers.

On Thursday evening we were invited to the San Diego Museum of Man in Balboa Park to see the *Journey to the Copper Age: Archaeology in the Holy Land* exhibit sponsored by ASOR, the UCSD Judaic Studies Program and the Museum of Man. After feasting on a delicious spread, we were welcomed to the exhibit by Tom Levy, whose work on early copper production is featured in the exhibit. This unique exhibit included a number of artifacts from Israel and Jordan as well as beautiful images and video footage explaining the rise of copper working in the Chalcolithic Period. ASOR guests were generously permitted free after-hours access to the museum, and we wish to thank ASOR, UCSD – Judaic Studies and the Museum of Man for a special evening.

After grabbing a bagel or muffin with half of ASOR at a small deli on the marina just outside of the hotel on Fri-

day morning, one could take his or her pick of a number of papers at sessions scheduled through 4:00. At 4:30 came a highlight of the 2007 Annual Meeting: the Members' Meeting. Those prepared for blood had hopefully already been sated by a film clip of the Indian ritual in which the blood of a freshly sacrificed goat was consumed (presented in one of the *Social Aspects of Human and Animal Sacrifice in the Ancient Near East* sessions), although the tone of the meeting was lively indeed. In addition to very useful presentations and discussion concerning the future of the ASOR Annual Meeting (see further in this Newsletter), Board elections were held and a number of awards were given (also see further this Newsletter). President Eric Meyers was presented with the Richard J. Scheuer Medal and a festschrift honoring his many years of service to ASOR and the field. After this meeting, many took advantage of a free shuttle from the Sheraton to the Gaslamp District for dinner and drinks, and indeed that was the destination for a number of junior scholars, who converged upon a local bar for an informal meet-and-greet.

Traditionally Saturdays have been a bit of a 'hard sell' in terms of academic sessions, as some need to leave early to attend other conferences, but the exceptionally strong and diverse lineup of sessions Saturday morning and afternoon kept many engaged up to the last papers, which ended at 4:00 pm. Especially successful were the *Archaeology of Iran* sessions, which needed some reshuffling as some of the participants were delayed en route and only arrived in San Diego as their sessions were about to start! Lively discussion could be heard in the well-attended and engaging *Current Issues in Palestinian Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Management* session. Although the hallway crowds thinned by the end of the afternoon with the closing of the book exhibit and the end of the academic sessions and business meetings, ASOR attendees could still be found in the Sheraton bars, dining in the Gaslamp district, and huddling together on sofas in the Sheraton lobby with their laptops, taking advantage of the only free wi-fi in the hotel, into the wee hours.

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The ASOR Newsletter (ISSN 0361-6029)
is published quarterly by the American
Schools of Oriental Research

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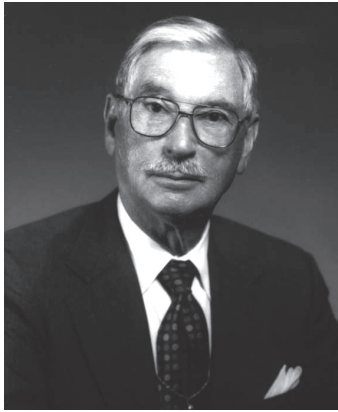
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"WANDERING FIRES"

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ASOR, NOVEMBER 18, 2007

P.E. MacAllister
Chairman of the Board



This report, which appears consistently on the agenda of our Board meetings, is in essence a gesture of accommodation. The Chair has very few official functions and none that require that you monitor or approve his actions, aside from perhaps some committee appointments, which he usually makes in conjunction with the President, so if something goes wrong, he can skillfully shift the blame. So this is really a moment of deference, allowing me to express some opinions about the state of affairs and iterate some impressions about what ASOR should or should not be doing, in the course of which I'm inclined to become a bit preachy, and, though well meaning, I am obviously biased by my own viewpoint.

Looking for an analogy around which to build these comments, let's shift back to the 5th and 6th centuries and focus on the legends of a king in Western Britain named Arthur whose legacy, real or fictitious, has both inspired and entranced us for centuries now. They were sorted out and consolidated by Mallory in the 15th century and rehearsed for us in the 19th by Tennyson. Built on an ancient legend beginning with one Constantine, who in 407 took the last Roman troops from Britain, noteworthy to us because he may have been the Grandfather of Arthur. This gets me to my time of late 5th and early 6th century. The period is one of readjustment after the empire had lost most of its clout and could no longer control the rampaging barbarians. Bit by bit the monolith that had been Imperial Rome was disassembled and inadvertently Europe converted to feudalism, to local independent military principalities.

It was not a happy time and in view of the disorder that marked the day...the century...almost the millennium, to find an island of peace and stability where a sense of justice existed, high principles governed conduct, wrongs were righted, and both the wolf-packs and the Saxon hordes held at bay was a rare and comforting sight. Arthur, of course, brought this about through the use of a fellowship of knights whose process on countless fields or encounters widened the control of the realm and affirmed the purpose of the crown, which was tranquility, order, justice, economic well-being, all ema-

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The Program Committee co-chairs wish to thank Vice President for Programs Eric Cline and Executive Director Andy Vaughn for all their hard work on this year's Annual Meeting. We also

thank the staff of the ASOR office - especially Alex Ratzlaff and Holly Andrews, whom we miss - for the countless hours spent organizing the schedule and program. Organizing the Annual Meeting is no easy task, and there was no lack

nating from the magic city-citadel, Camelot. It took twelve battles to achieve all this, the last at Badon Hill in 516 when Arthur achieved his greatest victory over the Saxons. But after maybe two and a half to three decades, something really weird happened. (Now, it has been 60 years since I have read *"The Idylls of the King,"* so allow me a little slack on this.) Perhaps the knights got bored, maybe they had achieved all they would achieve, could be they were bunged up enough to begin thinking of retirement, but what happened was a sudden religious awakening, both hard to quantify and impossible to justify, which swept through the kingdom.

Everyone got religion, not that they hadn't had it before, but a new awakening or maybe a new phenomenon or new movement appeared, centered around the grail. And about the benefits or the magic imparted, to any who could catch a glimpse of the Holy Grail. Grail, I understand, meant "dish," though it comes down to us as a goblet or a chalice, more specifically the one used by Jesus at the Last Supper and in which Joseph of Arimathea caught the blood of Jesus from the cross. In due course of time he hurried off with his colleagues to Glastonbury in foggy England where he and the grail resided. It had magic powers, so that any who viewed the same would receive God's grace, would preserve his youth, might benefit from healing powers and receive total comfort and peace of mind. Besides that, those who caught the vision and saw the gleaming object could prove they were a cut above the rest of us in loyalty and character. They had to be truly pure of heart and mind, exemplary in terms of conduct and, if they indeed saw the holy chalice, were transported at death to the islands of the west and assured of eternal life or something like that. Enough hype here or benefits to take very seriously and after two-plus decades in armour, battering down robber barons and engagement in pitched battles with the enemy, this quest for the grail seemed like a spiritual adventure the knights wanted to try. One after another they got a leave of absence from the king-commander and separately went off in pursuit. Sir Bors, Sir Kay, Sir Tristan, Sir Perceval, Gareth, Gawain, Bedevere, Galahad, even Lancelot, all pack their gear and off they ride searching for this shimmering celestial vision.

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of frustrating moments during the past year. Cool heads in the ASOR office always saw us through the rough patches, and the success of the final product made it all worthwhile. ✨

As the first team left the court, new knights replaced them but with the demigods gone, so was much of the power and muscle that had kept order, rescued maidens, and destroyed the tyranny of robber barons and brigands. Into the resulting vacuum, evil and disorder raised ugly heads. Mallory and Tennyson rehearse the stories of individual quests by sundry knights, but, alas, none of which includes a grail. The pattern was indicative of no success. Three, four, five years go past till at the end only one of the twenty-five who constituted the Round Table caught the vision and gained eternal bliss and divine favor. To the rest it was a waste of time. What do you suppose happened while this search was going on? The villain Mordred raised an army in the north and, with Camelot no longer protected by the formidable contingent, the whole glittering kingdom was threatened in what was the last great battle in the west. We note several of the knights returned, but also note fearful slaughter, culminating with the death of both Arthur and the evil Mordred. Guinevere is hurried off to a nunnery, Arthur's funeral cortege takes aim to the islands of the west, Lancelot goes back to his estates on the continent, the Saxons return in force and over-run the country, the wolf packs appear – the golden moment that was Camelot ended abruptly and, again, darkness descended upon the land.

The ironic thing in this story to me has always been the fact that what destroyed the stable, decent society in this opening chapter of the Dark Ages was religious illusion, this esoteric chimera. The search for the grail may have indeed been a holy undertaking, but the quest was a personal decision. Each knight left the corporate body to find a phantom of dubious value and productive of little merit to the whole fellowship. The result of 25 knights off on what Tennyson called "following wandering fires" resulted in sending the era of peace down the drain. It was satisfying personal ambition at the expense of the enterprise. A religious passion, not the Saxons, killed the "Table Round" and with it Camelot. And that to me is a curious sort of craziness. It was a failure to understand the priorities, that which was essential, and trading it off for "my" interest, or my well-being, my search for personal glory. A tangential mirage got in the way of the mission and emasculated the fellowship.

The stories of Arthur are really a series of individual tales about individual knights meeting and confounding a series of despots, bullies, robbers, and brawlers, and often included a maiden in distress. But in each event they are acting on behalf of the crown and are demonstrators of the central themes, which are again justice, fairness, kindness and righteousness. In essence, each is a surrogate for Arthur or Camelot in the field against evil, and each reports back on what he has achieved when the villain is subdued, converted or killed. The mission is the mission of the king, the administration. The combined effort of these solitary forays is what ultimately eliminates the several threats that abound and, as it secures peace and stability, creates the dream and the era that is Camelot.

So contrarily, then, when allegiance to the central *raison d'être* is withdrawn in pursuit of goals that will enhance one's personal stature, well-being or immortal soul, we find the

dynamic changing and the kingdom beginning to unravel. The underlying reason for the decline was not altogether a religious conviction, but rather the suborning of the total fellowship and kingdom to "what is in this for me, and if I get to heaven or catch the vision that is great, irrespective of what happens to my colleagues." The temptation being a religious one, it is easy to justify the decisions, as the king did, but whatever sends someone off from the central mission weakens the cause, just as Gareth's departure on his search weakened Arthur and his reign.

This entire story has something to endear it, because what lasted through the centuries was the gallantry of Arthur's mystical knights, their heroism and aid to others in trouble, which became the model of knighthood in the 14th and 15th centuries. The central theme, alas, is one familiar to societies like ours, wherein the harboring entity is the organization and the threat to the endeavor is considering personal agenda or interest as superior to the whole. Think of the partisan politics in this country, the ethnic or religious violence in Africa and the Middle East, for starters, and note why a core unity is never achieved and progress is so rare. The threat to the survival of most organizations is not always the enemy, but too often the membership within, which shifts the priority from the mission to *their* take on where things ought to be going and, in the process, weakens the enterprise.

This process is called implosion, and the Republican Party today is a great example of that work. George Bush is not a bad person, but his practice of functioning unilaterally, his misfortune in failing to foresee the Sunni-Shia bitterness in Iraq, his profligacy with our tax dollars are all things he has engineered and which in each instance have backfired. The Democrats did little to do him in, but watched him set a match to his own homestead. I watched the Colts do this on the 4th of November when New England came to town, and we had the game in our hands. Except we could not contain Randy Moss, and when we finally got the ball in the last quarter, late in the game moving on down steadily till one of our ends missed a pass for a twenty yard gain, because it hit him right in the hands. Then four minutes to go on our own thirty, which is a familiar situation for Manning to move the ball down slowly to ultimately score, but this day his own teammates felt different. First and ten and running play. Nullified. Offensive holding. Now first and 15. On the second play illegal motion and now it is first and 20. Finally, they trapped the quarterback who lost the ball and, thus, we lost the game. Three individuals killed the whole team and our amazing record.

We have this dynamic existing at work and a lot of places, and personal challenge or question can be a good thing in terms of broadening discussion, in validating the arguments and improving the product. But it does not help to defeat a wise proposal because "I don't see it that way", especially when I am dead wrong. But more pertinent to my point is the functioning of several subordinate movements, which combine to produce the total output of ASOR, like 25 knights created Camelot and a whole age. In our case this means the three Centers and the Board, COP, CAMP, Development, the



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE ASOR HONORS AND AWARDS 2007

The Richard J. Scheuer Medal 2007

This is the most prestigious award which honors an individual who has provided truly outstanding, long term support and service contributions to ASOR (given only as appropriate).

Eric M. Meyers

This year's recipient has been an active member and leader of ASOR for more than 35 years. A leader in the field of archaeology for almost 40 years, he has been involved with the Committee on Archaeological policy since its inception in 1975. He joined ASOR's Executive Committee in 1980, when he was named First Vice President for Publications. He remained in this post from 1980-1990, also serving as editor of *Biblical Archaeologist* during the same period. When his initial term as First Vice President concluded, he then served as President of ASOR from 1990-1996. He is also a recipient of the 1997 G.E. Wright Publication Service Award, in recognition of his work as editor of the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East* – the income from which still makes up the bulk of the publication's Opportunity Fund. Together with his wife Carol, he has been a faithful donor to ASOR for more than 40 years, establishing a fellowship account that will eventually award scholarships in memory of both his mother and his mentor, G.E. Wright. Even after concluding his second term as president in 1996, this year's Scheuer recipient has remained on the ASOR Executive Committee to this day, and most recently he served a third term as President from 2006-2007. There truly is no person more deserving of the Richard J. Scheuer Medal than this year's recipient – Eric M. Meyers.

The W.F. Albright Award

This award honors an individual who has shown special support or made outstanding service contributions to one of the overseas centers – ACOR, AIAR, CAARI, or to one of the overseas committees – the Baghdad committee and the Damascus committee. Given as appropriate.

Bert DeVries

It is most fitting that this award be given to Bert DeVries in recognition of his years of dedication to the American Center for Oriental Research and to furthering the development of archaeology in Jordan. In addition to his excellent work directing several significant archaeological projects, Bert served as the Director of ACOR during one of the most significant periods in the institution's history and he continues to support projects of vital importance to the Center. Most recently, he devoted his time, energy and resources to ACOR's successful "Crossing Jordan" conference in Washington, DC, held this past spring.

ASOR Membership Service Award

This award recognizes individuals who have made special contributions on behalf of the ASOR membership, through committee, editorial, or office services. Maximum three annual awards.

Morag Kersel

Recognition for Morag Kersel's many contributions to the ASOR membership, through her committee work and most recently as a Co-Vice President for Programs, is very well deserved. In addition to her internationally known work as a tireless advocate for responsible heritage conservation, Morag undertook to organize ASOR's newest scholars, encouraging them to participate in the organization and giving them a voice in the organization through the Junior Scholar's Committee.

The G. Ernest Wright Award

This award is given to the editor/author of the most substantial volume(s) dealing with archaeological material, excavation reports and material culture from the ancient Near East and eastern Mediterranean. This work must be the result of original research published within the past two years. One annual award.

Amihai Mazar – "Tel Beth Shean Excavation Reports"

Amihai Mazar has a well-deserved reputation as a responsible excavation director whose archaeological reports are always timely, interesting and informative. The Tel Beth Shean Reports are no exception in his exceptional career as an author and editor. In spite of a schedule that included several major publications in the last five years, this comprehensive, well-researched and well-received volume came out in the past year – the first in an ambitious research and publication program that Ami will, no doubt, succeed in accomplishing.

The P.E. MacAllister Field Archaeology Award

This award honors an archaeologist who, during his/her career, has made outstanding contributions to ancient Near Eastern and Eastern Mediterranean archaeology. One annual award.

Alan H. Simmons

Alan H. Simmons' impressive body of fieldwork goes back many years and spans several continents. He is, however, particularly known in ASOR for having established the island of Cyprus as the location for some of the

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earliest complex prehistoric societies in the Near East. His interests in archaeology include arid lands adaptations and early economies, and he is well known for the multidisciplinary nature of his field research in the Mediterranean. Through his detailed and comprehensive studies of the early stages of food production, the Neolithic revolution, faunal extinctions and prehistory in desert environments, our knowledge about the most Ancient Near East has been greatly enriched.

The Frank Moore Cross Award

This award is presented to the editor/author of the most substantial volume(s) related to ancient Near Eastern and eastern Mediterranean epigraphy, text and/or tradition. This work must be the result of original research published during the past two years. One annual award.

Bruce Lincoln - "Religion, Empire and Torture"

Bruce Lincoln emphasizes critical approaches to the study of religion, and his interest in discourse, practice, power, conflict, and the violent reconstruction of social borders has brought him to a wide variety of topics, both modern and historical. "Religion, Empire, and Torture: The Case of Achaemenian Persia" is based upon the author's reading of official texts from the Persian Empire relating to imperial theology. At the end of his study he brings us back

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M.C., etc. Each has its own assignment, but hopefully it is approached with not only success in its individual endeavors, but in doing so strengthens the work of ASOR. It is good to be passionate about an assignment and feel strongly about issues, but within the framework of the system wherein none of us is infallible, where credit is given to the opinion of others, and we need to ask continually, "Does this strengthen the mission? Is this good for ASOR?"

In closing with a final reflection on the Arthurian legends, you will find me as guilty as contemporary ministers, who prove far more adept at isogesis than at exegesis. They find it more convenient to read *into* a scripture passage what they want to find there and are less than practiced at interpreting what the writer puts there. So my isogetic conclusion from the grail story is that not a lot is gained from good intentions, and even the most worthy aspirations, if they are productive, are no more than that: visions. No more than glorious dreams of what might be. If I have a running criticism of political parties and scholarly associations, it is their resort to rhetorical dreams, promises or ambitions, but lack of will or ability to execute. Sketching for us what might happen to right wrongs or improve processes or strengthening the institution but vague as to how we go about fixing it or establishing *who* will bell the cat. Planning ought to be done with an honest appraisal of the quality of the executing vehicle and consider not what is desirable, but what is achievable. Understanding as well that where there is no hope for better times or better luck, the mission appears fruitless if not pointless. So dreams and plans are important because these define

to the present with his fascinating analysis of the photographs from Abu Gharib. It is a provocative study certain to engage the interests of many readers with its contemporary relevance and novel perspectives.

The Charles U. Harris Service Award

This award is given in recognition of long-term and/or special service as an ASOR officer and trustee. One annual award.

B. W. Ruffner

B. W. Ruffner, M.D. has served as a faithful trustee since 1996 and has provided essential services as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee during the past several years of transition and recovery. In this term he helped to make ASOR finances transparent and stable, which promoted the opportunity for financial recovery during the past two years. As Treasurer he served as a member of the Executive Committee and was a member of the Management Committee in its initial formation. Through great sacrifice in time and through balanced diplomacy, his contributions in these offices have been of signal importance in paving the way for ASOR to move forward in a positive way into its future. He is without question most deserving of ASOR's respect and recognition. He is the ideal candidate for the service award, named for Charles Harris who served ASOR so well in many of these same ways. ✨

the action and thus create the implementing dynamic.

In the case of ASOR, I feel personally that too often instead of *creating*, we recycle. The problems of yesterday and last week are still on our plate. The geographic distribution of members on a given committee, separating them by long distances, diminishes the effective functioning of a committee below that which is gained by sitting around a table and going at it man-a-mano. This means we probably meet less often than is necessary and do as much as we can in this clumsy situation, but not as much as needs doing. We have a tendency to develop a "mañana complex," and the result is that our production is slowed considerably and that the movement forward is at a very leisurely pace. There is nothing new in all this and nothing threatening. If one is an idealist, however, he is not content with what is, but is with what might be. And if we would be something different, a change in styles and in demands and in initiative is in order. The momentum of the past, the volume of your scholarly achievement, the heroes we produced, and the knowledge we imparted to the world is too valuable to hoard. Our work is too important to neglect or dally with, so even as we only plod along, we can be faithful to the charge handed us by previous generations, but could we not be more faithful to the mission they envisioned by each doing his or her part in adding to ASOR's output and value, but with more promptness, alacrity, dedication and commitment? Are we indeed giving it our best shot? And with the query still echoing in the air, I close, thanking you for your patience and saying, as the preacher does, "Let him who has ears to hear, let him hear." ✨

ERIC MEYERS' RESPONSE TO THE PRESENTATION OF THE FESTSCHRIFT IN HIS HONOR – ASOR MEETING, SAN DIEGO, 2007

I am truly honored by this event and by the fact that these essays are published as an ASOR Annual makes it all the more special. You all know that ASOR has been a special part of my life since I entered Harvard and fell under the spell of Ernest Wright and Frank Cross and Tom Lambdin, and my NT mentors Krister Stendahl and Helmut Koester. But I met Frank first and then Ernest in Jerusalem at HUC, where Carol and I were spending our honeymoon year first at the HUC-Smithsonian Program for college teachers to learn about the Bible and archaeology, and then at Hebrew University and continuing on at HUC with Ernest (Frank Cross had preceded Ernest as Director at HUC for the preceding year). The Gezer dig began that fall of 1964 and that's how we met Bill Dever and Carol and I were drafted to be assistant area supervisors, I to Bill and Carol to Ernest. What an experience that was and we continued on the staff for the next five years, and so I became part of the original Gezer gang that set off on its own in 1970.

Ernest together with Nelson Glueck somehow decided in those next years that I would head up a new team to develop in American circles what they called "the archaeology of early Judaism," and I was to pick a suitable site and project and they would help get the money. Well, the money went to ASOR in the form of a multi-year Smithsonian grant, US counterpart funds, and I decided that excavation of an ancient synagogue in its total context was the way to go, and I conducted a survey of sites in 1969 and selected Khirbet Shema' because it was in Galilee, it was in a rural context, and its remote mountain location reminded me of Masada. I also knew that I wanted Tom Kraabel along on the senior staff- Tom I knew from Harvard and from his work on Sardis, and Jim Strange whom I met at Gezer. I knew Carol would be there as well but



Eric Meyers in his response to the presentation of the Festschrift in his honor.



Douglas Edwards presenting the Eric Meyers Festschrift "The Archaeology of Difference: Gender, Ethnicity, Class and the 'Other' in Antiquity" (ASOR Annual 60/61).

with one new child and another in the planning stage I knew it would be a few years before she could come in at the senior level, which she did in a few years after Kh. Shema'.

Living in nearby Moshav Meiron I fell hopelessly in love with the Upper Galilee, its wild oak shrubbery, its olive trees, its mountainous terrain, its multi-cultural ambience of Jewish and Arab villages side by side, the view of Kinneret from the top of Kh. Shema', and the occasional rain that fell in summer in those days. There were so many wild boar in those days that on Mt. Meiron at night canon fire would go off at regular intervals to scare them from attacking the settlements below. And often Jim and I would trek in the mountains on weekends to locate a site mentioned in the old PEF surveys, and in the next years regional survey became a regular part of our dig activities. Ernest had wanted me to help create a ceramic chronology for the later periods and in the course of that first dig we made giant strides in that direction, discovering along the way the Galilean bowl and other types that seemed to be local and regional. Over the years I soon became convinced that what we had located in the rural Upper Galilee differed markedly from what I saw in the more urbanized Lower Galilee a region, which was punctuated with two major Jewish cities Sepphoris and Tiberias, and ringed with other Roman municipalities. These observations led me to my first publication on regionalism, which I published in the Wright Festschrift, a double issue of BASOR also bound as a book. Our stay in the Upper Galilee lasted nearly 15 years and it was a forgone conclusion long before that that the logical next place to excavate was in the more urbanized south, Lower Galilee, and that was to be Sepphoris.

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This is how it all began, and I am grateful to all my colleagues who joined us in that undertaking as staff and volunteers, first in the north and then in the south of Galilee. It was at Sepphoris that I met Doug Edwards and Tom McCollough, who have made this volume come to pass and I am extremely indebted to them for their extraordinary efforts in editing this ASOR Annual and to the Series editor, Nancy Serwint. I am also particularly grateful to all those who wrote for the volume, former students, colleagues, and friends. As I pass the torch on in ASOR leadership to a new generation, I am optimistic that new intellectual horizons will be opened and new frontiers of knowledge engaged with the same kind of spirit and openness that all the Galileans of my generation possessed.

Let me tell you two stories about Ernest Wright that have helped me in my career. The first one concerns Jerusalem. One day in the fall of 1965 back in Cambridge I was sitting in Ernest's office and he gets a call. I offer to leave but he says, "Eric, please stay." Well, it was Herbert Armstrong offering Harvard and ASOR a million dollars plus to start a dig in Jerusalem that would be featured first in his publication, "The Plain Truth." Armstrong's parishioners and students at his college were to be the volunteers along with whomever Ernest would bring along, and they were even prepared to build a dormitory in the Old City or buy and refurbish an old building as a dormitory and dig house. Ernest did not hesi-

tate to reject this offer, which would have led ASOR down an old path well trodden and precarious to say the least. Needless to say there were others around to accept this money and you know who they were.

The other story is more personal. When Ernest invited me to lead a new expedition and start selecting a staff and planning a dig he told me this: Don't ever be afraid to surround yourself with brilliant and talented people, some of them better and brighter than you. The key to good leadership, he said, is to have great and talented people alongside you in all your endeavors. In this respect I have been blessed beyond any expectation I have ever had, in staff, students, and colleagues.

I am truly humbled and honored by this occasion and event and will deeply treasure it forever.

Addendum: I did know about the Scheuer Award.

As a recipient of the Richard J. Scheuer Medal, ASOR's most prestigious honor, I am especially proud and humbled to be associated with a man I have come to honor, respect, and love all these many years. Dick Scheuer is one of ASOR's true angels and guiding lights. I am not exaggerating to say that ASOR would not be healthy today without his efforts over decades of support and insightful guidance of ASOR's work in the Middle East. He is a man of great wisdom and ASOR has benefited from it in so many ways these past decades. I salute Dick and his entire family for their continued association with and support of ASOR. ❄️

Come and See us at the **ASOR 2008 ANNUAL MEETING**

NOVEMBER 19–22, 2008
BOSTON, MA
WESTIN WATERFRONT HOTEL

**For more information, online registration,
hotel reservations and submission
deadlines, log on to our web site at
www.asor.org/AM/am.html**

A current registration form can be found
on page 31 of this Newsletter

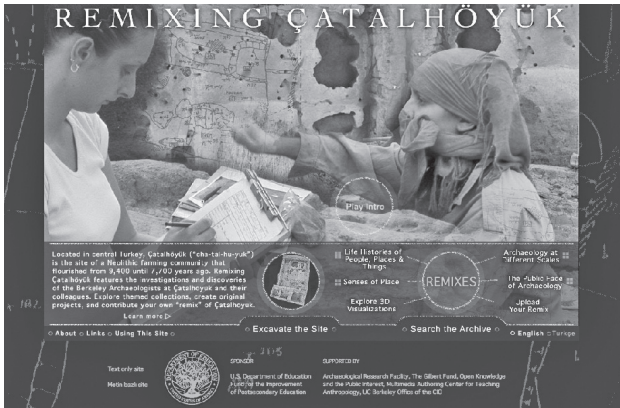


WINNERS OF THE OPEN ARCHAEOLOGY PRIZE

The 2007 ASOR meeting in San Diego saw the first-ever Open Archaeology Prize awarded for open access, digital contributions to Near Eastern archaeology. A panel of judges from the ASOR community selected winners based on the project's scholarly merit, its potential for reuse in research or teaching and its availability on the web in a free and reusable format.

First Prize, Senior Scholar

First prize for a Senior Scholar (\$500) was awarded to **Ruth Tringham and Noah Wittman** (UC Berkeley) for their website "Remixing Çatalhöyük" (<http://okapi.dreamhosters.com/remixing/mainpage.html>)



Remixing Çatalhöyük has been variously described as a database narrative and as a multimedia exhibition and research archive. Launched in October 2007, it features the investigations and data of the Berkeley Archaeologists at Çatalhöyük (BACH) and their colleagues at the Neolithic tell settlement of Çatalhöyük, Turkey. The aim of the website, accessible in English or Turkish, is to engage the public of all ages in the exploration of primary research data through four themed collections that are selected from the research database. One theme on the Life-History of People, Places, and Things - also includes a K-12 activity module. The public are invited to download media items that are licensed with a Creative Commons 3.0 license, create original projects and contribute their own "remixes" about Çatalhöyük. Ruth and Noah write that the developers of this resource "hope that this project will inspire other researchers to openly share their research data and engage broad public audiences." Remixing Çatalhöyük represents a groundbreaking effort toward sharing and elucidating the past, and we certainly hope other projects will follow their lead.

First Prize, Junior Scholar

First prize for a Junior Scholar (\$500) was co-sponsored by ASOR and was awarded to **Catherine Foster** (PhD student, UC Berkeley, Department of Near Eastern Studies) for her project "Household Archaeology and the Uruk Phenomenon: A Case Study from Kenan Tepe, Turkey" (<http://nes.berkeley.edu/~cpfoster/>)

Catherine is awarded first place for developing a website on her research involving household studies of a Late Chalcolithic community in the Upper Tigris region of southeast Anatolia. Her project demonstrates a solid foundation in open access and a visionary approach for future sharing of microarchaeological research. "The ultimate goal of my project is to create an open access micro-artifact database that can be used as a reference resource for other scholars wishing to embark on this type of analysis. Because it will be open access, other scholars will be able to add to the database with high-resolution scans and descriptions or alter categories as new discoveries are made. To my knowledge, no such database is freely available over the Internet and will be a valuable resource as the inclusion of microarchaeological techniques in Near Eastern excavation projects becomes more and more commonplace." Kudos to Catherine for taking the plunge! We anxiously await further developments.



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Fifth International Conference

"Hierarchy and Power in the History of Civilizations"

June 16-19, 2009, Moscow, Russia

First Announcement and Call for Panel Proposals. The aim of the Conference is to bring together researchers studying the topic in all its variety within the framework of different academic schools and traditions and over a wide range of disciplines.

All correspondence should be sent to Dr. Oleg Kavykin and Ms. Anastasia Banschikova, preferably by e-mail (conf2009@conf2009.ru), or either by fax (+7 495 202 0786) or ordinary mail (Center for Civilizational and Regional Studies, Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, 30/1 Spiridonovka St., 123001 Moscow, Russia). The telephone number is +7 495 291 4119.

SUMMARY OF THE 2007 ASOR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tammi Schneider
Vice-President for Membership

Dear ASOR members,

This year's Members meeting was quite a success in terms of the number of attendees, the amount of ground covered, and, I hope, the cohesive nature of the discussion.

The meeting was well attended. This was a result of having nothing else scheduled against the meeting and the focus on a concern dear to all ASOR members: the timing of the Annual Meeting. The only flaw was that our fearless leader, Eric Meyers, lost his voice and thus I, Tammi Schneider, VP for Membership, led the meeting in his stead.

This year, the Nominations committee had candidates running for the Board of Trustees submit paragraphs expressing why they were interested in serving for the board. Hopefully, in the future these will be handed out with registration so members will have time to review them prior to the election but even handing them out at the meeting allowed the membership to gain some

insight into who was running, why, and what issues are important to them.

The main focus of the meeting was when to hold the Annual Meeting in the future. The issue was raised at last year's meeting for the first time and a proposal was offered whereby much of the meeting would be outsourced to SBL. Throughout the year there have been many discussions including: the Board of Trustees Meeting in DC, the spring Board of Trustees Meeting in Indianapolis where members of the Boards of the Overseas Schools were invited to participate, a survey of the members, and the publication of those results on the web site. As a result, the members were well informed. We also asked one representative of each of the Overseas Schools to present a two-minute position of their particular School to begin the discussion.

The issues raised covered a wide range of topics such as problems writing an abstract about what you excavated this summer before actually going into the field, to the time consuming back-to-back nature of those who attend both SBL and ASOR. Issues were brought up by people representing the many different aspects of ASOR covering those who live overseas to

publishers trying to provide tables at our meeting. While the majority of the comments favor keeping the meeting time when it is, there are still problems with that arrangement and because those raising them were so thoughtful in their comments, the Executive Committee has already taken steps to try to alleviate some of those concerns. The discussion also highlighted how ASOR has evolved in the last ten years since breaking from SBL in terms of the methodologies and areas represented by our members.

The following day the Executive Committee voted on sending a motion to the Board of Trustees, who approved the motion, to continue holding the Annual Meeting at the same time that we have been and in the same town as SBL. The Program Committee will work with members and SBL to make this arrangement even better than it is presently. While it may seem that we spent a great deal of time deciding to maintain the status quo, I think the difference is that we are now doing it not because that is the only thing we can figure out, but that this arrangement is what works best for ASOR and its productive, multi-faceted, scholarly membership. ✨

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Runner Up

A second prize of \$200 in books, co-sponsored by the David Brown Book Company, was awarded to

Justin Lev-Tov (Statistical Research, Inc.)
for his project

"Hazor: Zooarchaeology" (<http://www.opencontext.org/database/project.php?item=HazorZooPRJ0000000010>).

This project presents zooarchaeological identification and analysis of nearly 10,000 animal bones from Late Bronze Age and Iron Age contexts at Hazor, research Justin conducted as part of the Hazor Excavations in memory of Yigael Yadin. By sharing this dataset in Open Context with a flexible license for reuse, Justin is improving access to high-quality research and original data that accompany published syntheses. This dataset has been accessed over 11,000 times since it was uploaded to Open Context in Fall 2006. We hope to see more related content from this time period available

in open access formats so that Justin's dataset becomes even more valuable through comparison with other sites.

Next year's ASOR Open Archaeology Prize will be announced in Summer 2008. Members may submit their own project or nominate the project of another ASOR member.

For more details on eligibility, see the 2007 guidelines at: <http://www.asor.org/AM/OpenArch.pdf>.

The ASOR Open Archaeology Prize competition is sponsored by the Alexandria Archive Institute, promoting the development and use of open educational resources in archaeology and related disciplines. The competition aims to enhance community recognition of open scholarly communication and receives generous support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the David Brown Book Company and the American Schools of Oriental Research. ✨



REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

When I agreed to serve again as interim ASOR President again after having served more than two full terms, I was filled with fear and trepidation. ASOR was at a critical turning point in its history, and the challenge of resolving a huge budget deficit and making a case for the importance of maintaining the loyalty of the three overseas schools to ASOR seemed daunting. But the ghosts and heroes of ASOR's illustrious past sent a strong message: We have to resolve the current crisis and move forward. And indeed we did. Within a relatively short time the ASOR family pulled together and contributed as never before to the rescuing of our beloved society. It was a thing to behold and to treasure. In the course of a fiscal year and a bit, we pulled ourselves out of the red into the happy circumstance of being in the black.

When I was President in the nineties we had a holy trinity of angels: P.E. MacAllister, Dick Scheuer, and Charles Harris. The trinity is gone now but two are left and others have filled in to be regarded as angels, and you know who they are. ASOR is alive and well and we remain the most important scholarly organization for the study of the ancient Near East and eastern Mediterranean society in existence today. No other such group is poised or ready to fill this role. The response of all, especially the membership, has been nothing short of fabulous.

New Board Members elected at the Nov. 16, 2007 Membership Meeting

Barry Gittlen
Jeffery Chadwick
Nili Fox
Robert Mullins
K. Lawson Younger

Members elected to serve in the Class of 2010 (Jan. 1, 2008–Dec. 31, 2010)

Institutional Slate

Barry Gittlen
Jeffery Chadwick
Nili Fox
Eric Cline

Individual Slate

Jimmy Hardin
Robert Mullins
Lawson Younger

Board Slate

Lawrence T. Geraty

As I turn over the reigns to Tim Harrison, all I want to say is that we in the older generation will not let him down and we expect the same sort of imaginative leadership that we have come to expect from all ASOR leaders. We have been and remain the leadership cadre for Middle East archaeological and related studies and expect to be there for the long term.

I want to thank the members of the Management Committee and in particular our esteemed chair, P.E. MacAllister, for his enduring support and wise council. We have had to deal with matters that have been very challenging and we have met those challenges successfully.

I have always said that ASOR's future lies in ruins, and I am more certain now than ever before that this is the case. So long as ASOR has its sights on the past in a region that contributed so much to the appreciation of humanity's achievements, it will surely survive and prevail.

Highlights from ASOR's past will hopefully keep you aware of these matters, and Rachel Hallote and I will regularly post notes from ASOR's past as preserved in the archives.

Eric M. Meyers, Bernice and Morton Lerner Professor; Director, Center for Jewish Studies; President, ASOR

ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS FROM THE 2007 TRAVEL GRANT RECIPIENTS

Yukiko Tonoike, Yale University

Due to the generous travel grant from ASOR, I was able to attend the 2007 ASOR annual meeting for the first time. I was not only able to learn about the current status of various excavations in Turkey, where I have been working as well, but I also was able to meet various researchers. At larger archaeology conferences, this is very difficult to do. It was very nice to meet people that I had only known from publications before and to be able to have conversations with them. Not only did I meet experienced researchers, but I was also excited to meet numerous students who were at a similar stage. As we will be working together for a long time, I felt that this was an invaluable experience. Because of the manageable size of the conference, I could attend many lectures and learn many things of which I would otherwise have been unaware. Overall, I felt that the 2007 ASOR annual meeting was one of the most beneficial meetings that I have attended so far.

ASOR Newsletter, Winter 2007/8

Yoko Nishimura, UCLA

At the ASOR meeting this year in San Diego I presented a paper entitled "A Close Look at the Spatial Organization in the Residential Quarters at Tiriš Höyük, A Small Urban Center in 3rd Millennium Upper Mesopotamia." It was very well received, and I was pleased by the compliments and attention that it generated among participants. Responses came not only from scholars familiar with my research, but also from other scholars in related fields.

By networking with colleagues, I obtained information about possibilities for participating in upcoming field research projects in southeastern Turkey, especially for the coming summer. Attending the ASOR annual meeting provides probably the most efficient, and at times the only, opportunity to exchange such important information in our field.

Finally, since I am currently applying for jobs and post-doc positions in archaeology, I also had the opportunity to

meet with people at some of the institutions to which I am applying, and with other graduate students who are also at the same stage in their careers.

Darrell Rohl, Andrews University

This year I was privileged to attend ASOR's annual meeting in San Diego, thanks in part to an ASOR student travel grant. As a student and young scholar, the meeting was fruitful in several ways. First, and foremost, it provided the opportunity to present the results of my research to a wider audience. While Andrews University is home to the foremost experts on the site of Tall Hisban, I am currently the sole archaeological researcher focusing on the Roman period occupation. Through individual conversations, attended sessions and feedback on my presented paper, the annual meeting provided an opportunity for me to advance my understanding of Transjordan and the broader Near Eastern region during the Roman period. While some seasoned veterans often seem unapproachable to young scholars, the environment at ASOR's annual meeting eased the usual tensions and gave me the confidence to inquire and discuss research with many of the big names. For these reasons, and more, I am grateful for the opportunity to participate this year and look forward to future meetings.

Matthew Spigelman, New York University

Receiving an ASOR Travel Grant helped me to attend the 2007 annual meeting in San Diego. While I attended the annual meeting several times in the past as a "spectator," this year marked my first time as a presenter. In my paper, "Competing Elite Strategies in the Middle to Late Bronze Age Transition on Cyprus," I laid out the theoretical models and anthropological questions that will guide my upcoming dissertation research. The feedback I received was encouraging and constructive, and I am sure the experience will prove invaluable as I move towards proposal and grant writing. I look forward to presenting the results of my completed dissertation research at an ASOR meeting in the (hopefully) not so distant future!

Carolyn Swan, Brown University

I am very grateful to ASOR for assisting my travel to the 2007 Annual Meeting in San Diego. I presented a paper on "Issues of Trade and Industry in a Changing World: More Evidence for Glassmaking Technology in the Late Antique and Early Islamic Near East." As a junior scholar (I am a second-year PhD student), having the opportunity to join a distinguished panel of speakers and to present my current research in a public forum was an invaluable experience. Not only did it increase my knowledge base and develop my skills as a scholar, it also allowed me to enter into a dialogue with other researchers about a fascinating (and still relatively ill-understood) period of transition and cultural interaction. In many ways, I am now a member of a group of colleagues who are all working together to illuminate some critical archaeological questions, and this is very exciting indeed! ✨

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: EDITOR OF NEA

Near Eastern Archaeology, a publication of the American Schools for Oriental Research, is seeking an editor for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2008, for twelve quarterly issues. *Near Eastern Archaeology* is a peer-reviewed illustrated publication intended for a knowledgeable but non-specialist audience. The journal accepts submissions covering the periods from prehistory through Ottoman times and from scholars working on materials or in locations throughout the Near East.

The duties of the position include: maintenance of an editorial office for the journal; solicitation and acquisition of manuscripts suitable for publication; implementation of a peer review process for the evaluation of manuscripts; collaboration with the managing editor and art director of the journal; and editing and proofreading each issue. The duties also include timely publication of journal issues and providing timely reports to the Chair of the Publications Committee about the activities of the journal editorial office. A more complete description can be found on ASOR's webpage at <http://www.asor.org/pubs/cop/index.html>.

The Editor of *NEA* will have full editorial control over the journal, within the parameters of the editorial mission established for *NEA* by ASOR. The successful candidate should anticipate managing a transition to online submission and review. Ideally, the Editor should also be knowledgeable on the production and distribution processes common to print journals. The Editor of *NEA* receives a stipend as well as reimbursement for travel expenses to ASOR's Annual Meeting. ASOR will negotiate details regarding administrative support, travel support, telephone and Internet access, and other basic infrastructure in collaboration with the successful candidate.

The search committee requests proposals from applicants outlining a vision for the future of the Journal, including a statement expressing how *NEA* can best serve the varying needs of ASOR's membership as well as the interests of the Journal's subscribers.

Applications will be reviewed as they are received. Applications should consist of the aforementioned vision statement and current CV or resumé. These materials, and any other inquiries, should be submitted via e-mail to Dr. Ann Killebrew (aek11@psu.edu).

Symposium Announcement

"The Healing Power of Ancient Literature"

will be held in Reno, Nevada, on June 19–20, 2008, under the auspices of The Parker Institute. The symposium will explore the wisdom literature of Egypt, the Mesopotamian Epic of Gilgamesh, the poetry of Homer, the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius, and the Biblical book of Ecclesiastes as sources of enlightenment and inspiration. For further information, contact Dr. Lois Parker (loisp@unr.edu; 2878 Barong Court, Reno, NV 89523).

ASOR Development Highlights

ASOR designates Ross bequest of \$32,000 to endowment

The previous issue of the ASOR Newsletter contained a remembrance of long-time ASOR board member and secretary, James Ross. In this issue, we are pleased to announce that Ross will continue to support the on-going work of ASOR through a bequest of almost \$32,000.00. While the bequest was undesignated, the ASOR board has decided that it is most appropriate to place these funds in our endowment so that Jim's commitment towards ASOR can be felt in perpetuity. We are also pleased that this board decision reinforces a new day in ASOR. Previously, we had to use such unexpected gifts to meeting our operating costs. It is our hope that we will let our endowment grow to the point where the income from it supports our operations without the need for large gifts to the annual fund. Once we reach this goal, we will be able to request gifts to the annual fund to support scholarships and other projects rather than operating costs.

ASOR receives matching challenge pledges for the annual fund

We are pleased to announce that ASOR has received challenge pledges in the amount of \$25,000 each from Artemis Joukowsky and P.E. MacAllister for fiscal year 2008 (ending June 30, 2008). Their challenge is directed to ASOR's Board of Trustees, and pledges to match at 2:1 all new or increased giving by board members up to a total of \$25,000, by July 1, 2008, for a combined total of \$75,000.

Heritage, Platt, and Harris Fellowships continue in 2008

As described in other parts of this Newsletter, ASOR awarded more than \$36,500.00 for excavation support during the summer of 2007. For 2008, our goal is to have 20 Heritage Fellowships to add to \$20,000 in Platt and Harris Fellowships available. If we are able to meet this goal, we will be able to

award over \$60,000 in excavation support for 2008. The ability to meet this goal is contingent on being able to retain out 10 Heritage members from last year and attracting ten new members. We are pleased that we have already had pledges from four new members, so we are well on way our goal of twenty Heritage members. If you would like more information on Heritage membership, please contact Executive Director, Andy Vaughn, at asored@bu.edu.

Support of annual fund enables ASOR to carry out key programs

This year our treasurer, Sheldon Fox, has worked with the auditors to include a schedule of expenses by program unit. This schedule shows precisely what we had all known previously—several key ASOR programs are sustained with undesignated dollars from the annual fund. Two of these key programs are the annual meeting and archaeological and policy support (all of the activities of CAP and executive office to support archaeology). We thus need your support of the annual fund in order to support these vital programs.

ASOR annual fund just over 75% of goal in mid-January

The ASOR budget includes \$100,000 in undesignated support from the annual fund. As stated above, we could not provide crucial programs without this support. We are pleased that we are thus over three-quarters of the way towards meeting our goal of \$100,000 in gifts for the FY 2008. While we celebrate this success, we need our membership to step up to ensure that we can meet our goal. If you have any questions, please contact ASOR president Tim Harrison (tim.harrison@utoronto.ca) or executive director Andy Vaughn (asored@bu.edu; 617-353-6574). You may make a gift by clicking on the link on the ASOR website at www.asor.org.✳

Report from the Committee on Archaeological Policy – December 2007

During the May 2007 Board of Trustees meeting, my nomination for a three year term (July 2007 – June 2010) as Vice President and chair of the Committee on Archaeological Research Policy (CAP) was approved. Six new CAP committee members (Gregory Mumford [Class of 2008], Larry Herr [Class of 2009], and Leigh-Ann Bedal [second term], Benjamin Porter [Secretary], Benjamin Saidel and Tom Levy [the latter four are new members of the Class of 2011]) were nominated and approved by the Board of Trustees in the fall. The entire list of committee members are listed on the ASOR website at <http://www.asor.org/capclass.htm>.

ASOR's Executive Committee and Board of Trustees has charged our committee with the task of reconfiguring CAP to better reflect archaeology in the eastern Mediterranean and ANE in the 21st century and to better represent our changing membership over the past few decades. In addition, during the coming year, our committee will be examining ways CAP can serve archaeological field and publication projects as well as the general membership. Personally I am hoping to create closer ties with the Committee on the Annual Meeting and Program

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Center Update from Barbara Porter, ACOR Director in Amman

This brief report on activities at ACOR is being written shortly after the ASOR Annual Meeting in San Diego, where the ACOR fall board meeting also took place. In this first week of December, we are preparing to receive members of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage of Iraq, who are attending a workshop hosted by the Getty Conservation Institute and the World Monuments Fund. In June, the GCI and WMF also held a workshop at ACOR for members of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan involved in developing a new Global Information Systems (GIS) database. This initiative was described in the latest *ACOR Newsletter* (Vol. 19.1 – Summer 2007).

Featured in that same newsletter with a photo montage and brief essay is the May 2007 conference “Crossing Jordan” (ICHAJ 10: the 10th International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan), which was also reported on in the previous *ASOR Newsletter*. This conference was the focus of my first year, given that I took over from Pierre Bikai in April 2006. It proved to be a successful conference and a wonderful opportunity for me to work closely with the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and many other colleagues involved in Jordan’s past.

Christopher A. Tuttle became ACOR’s Assistant Director in January 2006. He has spent the past three summers excavating with Martha Sharp Joukowsky at Brown University’s Great Temple Project in Petra and is cur-



Chris Tuttle and Barbara Porter on top of the well of Jabal Haroun, Petra (Photo courtesy of C. Tuttle).

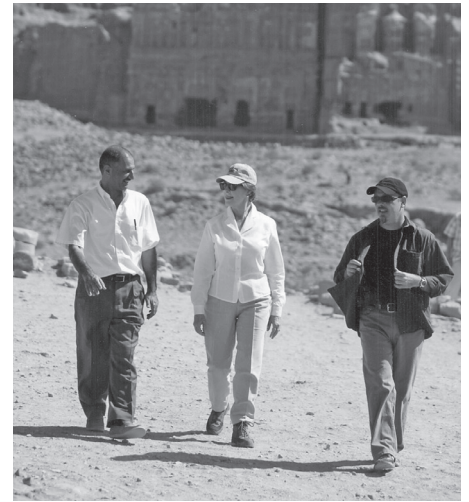
rently writing his Brown dissertation on Nabataean figurines. Summers are very busy at ACOR due to the many dig teams coming in and out, but now also because we host 30 American students who spend the summer here learning Arabic. This is part of the Critical Languages Scholarships Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by CAORC (Council of American Overseas Research Centers), and this program will continue next summer at ACOR (for information, see fellowships in www.caorc.org).

Year 2007 started with an intense three-week seminar on Islam and the Middle East for twelve American college professors. This initiative with CAORC and CIC (Council of Independent Colleges) took place twice before at ACOR, but the challenge this time was to run the seminar while also organizing and fundraising for ICHAJ 10. Thus January contained a full program of interesting lectures and field trips in Jordan. All the participants benefited from what they learned and were also enriched by the people whom they encountered.

Among the pleasures of living in Jordan are the regular contact with numerous excavators and the chance to visit ongoing archaeological projects. In late August, Chris and I were invited to stay with the Finnish team on Jabal Haroun thanks to the invitation of the project directors, Jaako Frösén and Zbigniew Fie-ma. We were very appreciative as it was the end of their last season of investigation of the Byzantine monastic and pilgrimage complex located below the summit of the Mountain of Aaron, south of Petra.

We also often have the privilege of taking around members of the U.S. Congress. At the end of October we were particularly honored to be asked by the American Embassy in Amman to escort the First Lady, Laura Bush, around Petra, in the company of Suleiman Farajat, the Director of the Petra National Park.

One of my responsibilities is the continuation of the publication program that has previously been under the aegis of Patricia Bikai. This summer I helped



Laura Bush escorted in Petra by Suleiman Farajat and Chris Tuttle (right; Photo courtesy of The White House).

oversee the final stages of the publication of *The Petra Papyri III*, edited by Antti Arjava, Matias Buchholz, and Traianos Gagos. This is the second volume of five to appear that will present the sixth century scrolls uncovered in the Petra Church fourteen years ago. ACOR’s Petra church excavations are a topic I have adopted with great interest for presentations here in Amman but also for the center directors’ exchange supported by ASOR. This exchange took me to Cyprus last March to be hosted by Tom Davis at CAARI and will see me in Jerusalem at the Albright as arranged by Sy Gitin at the end of January 2008. It is a program that I find exceedingly beneficial as an introduction to the other centers and a way to promote ACOR.

In the past year and a half, there have been many special times. Getting to know the junior and senior scholars in residence and the excavators in passing has been a rewarding aspect of my position. However I should note that the greatest pleasure comes from working with a superb staff who, with the exception of Chris and me, have all been here for more than a decade, including Mohammed Adawi, ACOR’s cook since its inception, thus for forty years. Next summer will be ACOR’s 40th anniversary celebrations, and we hope to share the pleasure of marking this benchmark with many of you in 2008. ✨

Call for Nominations for Election of the Vice President for Publications of ASOR

The Officers Nominations Committee of the American Schools of Oriental Research announces a General Call for Candidates who wish to seek the position of Vice-President for Publications of the Corporation. Election for this position will be held at the Board of Trustees meeting on May 3, 2008 in Philadelphia. The term of office for this position is three years beginning July 1, 2008. Self-nominations are preferred and should include a one-paragraph academic biography, a brief statement describing why the candidate is interested in this position, and contact information. If a candidate is being nominated by another person we seek the candidate's name, a short academic history, a brief statement describing why the candidate would be appropriate for this position, contact information, and, most importantly, a statement from the candidate that she or he agrees to their name being placed into nomination.

All inquiries should be address to Jeff Blakely (jblakely@wisc.edu), Chair of the Officers Nominations Committee. Nominations should be submitted to Jeff Blakely and copied to the ASOR Boston Office (asor@bu.edu).

A general description of the position of Vice-President for Publications is given in the ASOR bylaws, available on-line at www.asor.org/bylaws_approved.htm. Additional information about the position can be obtained by contacting Jeff Blakely (jblakely@wisc.edu).

Call for Nominations for Editors of The ASOR Annual and the Archaeological Report Series

The Committee for Publications of the American Schools of Oriental Research announces a call for nominations for Editor of The ASOR Annual and Editor of the Archaeological Report Series of ASOR. The term of office for each position is three years, both beginning January 1, 2009. The Committee for Publications seeks to send these nominations to the Board of Trustees for final consideration no later than May 3, 2008. Self-nominations are preferred and should include a one-paragraph academic biography, a brief statement describing why the candidate is interested in the position, and contact information. If a candidate is being nominated by another person, we seek the candidate's name, a short academic history, a brief statement describing why the candidate would be appropriate for the position, contact information, and, most importantly, a statement from the candidate that she or he agrees to their name being placed into nomination.

A full description for each position is posted on the ASOR webpage at: <http://www.asor.org/pubs/cop/index.html>. Further inquiries about each of these positions should be addressed to the current editors for each position. For The ASOR Annual contact Dr. Nancy Serwint (nancy.serwint@asu.edu) and for the Archaeological Report Series contact Dr. Joseph Greene (green5@fas.harvard.edu). Nominations for each position should be directed to the current editor with a copy being sent to Jeff Blakely (jblakely@wisc.edu), Interim Vice-President for Publications.

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(CAMP), Committee on Publications (COP), Institutional and Individual Memberships, and Development in order to harness our collective resources and energies to promote both archaeological research and membership involvement in ASOR.

CAP approved three new projects for ASOR affiliation including two field projects in Turkey (Kekova Adasi [Elizabeth Greene] and the Gulf of Iskenderun survey [Ann Killebrew]) and one publication project in Israel (Yotvata [Jodi Magness]). ASOR affiliated projects are listed on the ASOR website at <http://www.asor.org/ASORCAP10.htm>. Several topics were discussed during our November 17th meeting in San Diego. These issues include: (1) what role ASOR affiliation should serve and fulfill; (2) clearer and more consistent guidelines and means of evaluating new and renewed projects, including eligibility; (3) how ASOR affiliation can benefit projects, staff and students approved projects including funding opportunities, promotion of ASOR affiliated projects via the ASOR webpage, enhanced sessions at the Annual Meetings, increased publication opportunities, etc., (4) how to better coordinate our activities and goals with those of other ASOR committees, and (5) how ASOR affiliation can serve to increase interest ASOR memberships, both on an individual as well as institutional level.

During the coming months I will be working with the CAP committee to compile a summary of the various views and pros/cons of different directions ASOR affiliation and the mandate of CAP can include. These will be presented to the Executive Committee on February 9th and subsequently will be circulated to the general membership for their opinions and input. I am hoping that by the Spring of 2008 we will have a new agenda and vision for CAP that will reflect the various views, constituencies, interests, and concerns of our membership in general. I would encourage all ASOR members to look at the CAP webpage (<http://www.asor.org/ASORCAP.html>), which includes information on funding and grant opportunities.

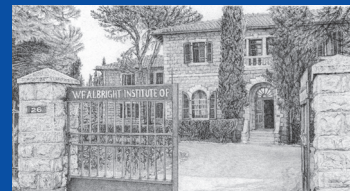
I look forward to receiving input and your opinions during the coming months regarding the role of CAP and how ASOR can better serve our members' archaeological research and field projects. My e-mail is aek11@psu.edu.

Ann E. Killebrew

Vice President and Chair of the Committee on Archaeological Research Policy

Associate Professor, Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies, Jewish Studies and Anthropology, The Pennsylvania State University ❁

W.F. ALBRIGHT INSTITUTE
OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH, JERUSALEM
RESEARCH APPOINTEES, RESIDENTS AND STAFF
2006–2007



W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research Appointees, Residents, and Staff, 2006/2007

Back Row (l-r): Adam Gitin, Cherie Gitin, Senior Fellow Shimon Gibson, Resident Pat Neu, Senior Fellow Stephen Pfann, Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellows Edward Silver and Mary Larkum, Annual Professor Anson Rainey, Senior Fellow Jeffrey Chadwick, Research Fellow Baruch Brandl, Miqne Architect J. Rosenberg, Library Intern Tamara Durbin, Post-Doctoral Fellow Itzhaq Shai, Maintenance Staff Ashraf Hanna.

Middle Row (l-r): Director S. Gitin, Library Computer Consultant Avner Halpern, Research Fellow Deborah Cassuto, Assistant to the Director Helena Flusfeder, Research Fellow Claire Pfann, Andrew W. Mellon Fellow Jan Dusek, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow Seth Sanders, Samuel H. Kress Fellow Marina Mihaljevic, Djordje Aralica, Miqne Staff Alexandra Drenka, Chief Librarian Sarah Sussman, Chef Hisham M'farrah, Research Fellow Nava Panitz-Cohen, Gardener Faiz Khalaf.

Front Row (l-r): Administrative Consultant Munira Said, Miqne Staff Ghassan Nagagreh, Institute Manager Nadia Bandak, Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellow Karen Britt, Ernest S. Frerichs Fellow/Program Coordinator Benjamin Dolinka, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow Ann Killebrew, George A. Barton Fellow Matthew Suriano, Annual Professor Louise Hitchcock, Senior Fellow Trude Dothan, Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellow Tzemah Yoreh, Housekeeping Staff Nuha Khalil Ibrahim, Research Fellow Malka Hershkovitz.

Row on Carpet (l-r): Kitchen and Housekeeping Staff Nawal Ibtisam Rshaid, Research Fellow Alexander Zukerman, Library Computerization Staff Diana Steigler, Librarian Kate Masliansky.

Appointees and staff not in photo: Andrew W. Mellon Fellows Mariusz Burdajewicz, Laszlo Hunyadi, Lukás Pecha, Tomasz Polanski; Samuel H. Kress Fellow Christine Thompson; Senior Fellows Marwan Abu Khalaf, Tzvi Abusch, Eliot Braun, Susan Cohen, Gerald Finkielstzejn, Naomi Koltun-Fromm, Aren Maeir, Hani Nur el-Din, Joan Schneider, Kent Sparks, Yuri Stoyanov, Hamdan Taha, Dieter Vieweger, Anna de Vincenz, Samuel R. Wolff; Post-Doctoral Fellows Ibrahim Abu-Ammar, Jill Baker, Mohammad Ghosheh, Salah H. Houdalieh, Ianir Milevski, Stephen Rosenberg, Hamed Salem, Aharon Yaffe, Anabel Zarzecki-Peleg; Research Fellows Rodney Aist, Jamal Bargouth, Robert Darby, Amir Golani, Timothy Mackie, Tim Moore, Khader Salameh, Channa Cohen Stuart, Ross Voss; Miqne Staff Marina Zeltser, Moshe Ben-Ari, Viviana Moscovich; Groundsman Lutfi Mussa.



W.F. ALBRIGHT INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH, JERUSALEM



2006–2007 FELLOWS REPORTS

Detailed Commentary on all of the Tell el-Amarna Letters

**Anson Rainey,
Tel Aviv University (Emeritus)
Annual Professor**

During my tenure as one of the Annual Professors at the Albright Institute this year, I collated the transcriptions and translations of forty Amarna Letters with photographs. This was based on the transcriptions and translations I had made in recent years at museums in London, Berlin, Brussels and Paris; as well as on my work on the Cairo tablets in 1980, before the use of personal computers.

As part of the resources available in the Albright Library, two facsimiles of my own facsimiles were copied and catalogued for use by future researchers. These hand copies are inadequate in comparison with the actual tablets, but they serve as a handy tool for access to the original tablets. The third facsimile will be furnished to the library in due course.

The personal collation of all my transcriptions and translations continues, sign by sign and line by line. I am using photographs of all the London texts and fifty of the Berlin texts taken by the team from West Semitic Research, supplemented by digital photographs by Dr. Juan-Pablo Vita, of the tablets in Berlin and Paris. I presented a paper explaining the photo-



graphic processes being utilized and a collection of important new readings at the Society of Biblical Literature Meetings in Washington D. C. in November 2006. This paper is scheduled to appear in a forthcoming issue of the Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research. Further such articles will be published as the work progresses but my final goal is to issue a complete new edition of all the Amarna letters. I also gave a public lecture at the Albright on NEW LIGHTING on the Amarna Letters, 119 Years of Amarna Research.

I benefited greatly from the time spent at the Albright. The facilities were excellent for my work: good library support, a generous study room, Internet connections and a congenial staff. In accepting the appointment as AP, I was especially interested to meet a new crop of young researchers in various fields. My horizons were broadened by hearing about their research projects and backgrounds, some of which are beyond my own academic training. I enjoyed the exchange of ideas and spending time with the fellows, from whom I learned a great deal. In addition, participating in a number of field trips contributed much to updating my awareness of recent research in the field. I wish to thank the Albright Fellowship Committee for the award as well as the Education and Culture Affairs Bureau of the US State Department and the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation for their support.

“Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings:” Exploring Interconnections in Aegean and Levantine Architecture

**Louise Hitchcock, University of Melbourne
Annual Professor**

My research this year is one component of a broader study of interconnections, with regard to the architecture of the Aegean, Cyprus, and the Levant, in the Bronze through Early Iron Ages. My focus on architecture stems from an interest in the formulation of cultural identity. Although I am looking at over thirty sites and twenty features, my focus was to develop a model with regard to understanding how architectural ideas are transmitted.

As at least three different constituencies were involved in the construction of a monumental building, the patron, the architect, and groups of builders who executed a design, it is necessary to distinguish between them. Yet, these groups are frequently conflated in the literature. Because architectural forms could not spread in the same way as portable objects, I have investigated other mechanisms of transmission. I believe that these varied



according to circumstances. Based on an analogy with information from cuneiform texts, I believe that temporary gift exchange of skilled workers served as the means of transmission in the Mediterranean during periods of political stability.

Gift exchange explains the appearance of Aegean style frescoes in Egypt and the Levant. It is a more realistic explanation than peopling the Mediterranean with itinerant craftsmen, for which no evidence exists. As a result of catastrophes such as the eruption of Thera, and the destruction of Minoan, and later of Mycenaean, Cypriot, and Levantine centers at the end of the Bronze Age, I argue for small-scale migration of skilled architects seeking out new, elite patronage. Based on the analysis of stylistic details, I believe builders were local in many (but not all) instances. Both categories of contact, elite gift exchange and migration of skilled refugee workers, throughout the Mediterranean resulted in the conscious appropriation of particular architectural styles.

Adopting foreign architectural styles to enhance prestige is not uncommon: from the Augustan appropriation of the visual symbolism of Athenian democracy to the American use of Neoclassical forms. The circulation of portable prestige objects in the Late Bronze Age played a key role in the construction of elite identity. I believe that Cypriot and Mycenaean elites in the 13th c. were creating a corresponding 'International Style' of architecture compatible with existing beliefs in their respective cultures, and communicating their status to an audience of seafaring merchants. Some of these archi-

tectural forms survived into the Iron Age, making periodic appearances at Levantine, Cypriot, and Aegean sites.

Although the Minoan palaces were destroyed before the 13th c., their remnants remained visible, and were revered in "ruin cults" as part of a venerated landscape of ruins. It is reasonable to suggest that stories about them accompanied the circulation of portable goods around the Mediterranean where they remained a source of inspiration after their destruction. In contemporary society, ruins such as the Western wall continue to exert a powerful influence.

In turning to historical evidence for understanding the transmittal of architectural forms over long distances, I considered studies of 'copies' of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in mediaeval Europe. The copies displayed very few similarities, either with the original or with each other. Although the intention of imitating the Sepulcher was expressly stated, no mediaeval source discusses their design or construction, beyond materials used. We can only imagine how imprecise descriptions by traders or patrons passed on to architects in ancient languages we still do not understand, such as Bronze Age 'Cypriot' resulted in a distortion of copying architecture from abroad. It can be reasonably suggested that handed down memories of impressive buildings accompanied the circulation of portable objects traded throughout the Mediterranean, yet that the circumstances of transmission resulted in a distortion of form.

The Archaeology of Writing:

Provenienced Judean Inscriptions from the Iron Age IIB as Evidence for Israelite Literacy and State Formation

Seth Sanders, Independent Researcher
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow



By examining the role of Iron Age Hebrew in the kingdom of Judah, I attempted to rethink an old question: how do we understand the relationship between written Hebrew culture such as the Bible, and the reality of ancient Israel? Was Hebrew writing produced by an Israelite or Judean state, and if not, who and what does it represent? Epigraphy enables us to ask questions we can actually answer and helps us to avoid historically naïve or theologically driven attempts to verify or disprove the Bible's authenticity. The development of written Hebrew was not tied to the rise of a single state. A form of written Hebrew, standardized in grammar, script style, and (with limited exceptions) spelling, is found in both north and south from the 8th through 6th centuries B.C.E. Hebrew inscriptions represent the only known cultural object whose physical distribution corresponds to the boundaries of Israel as narrated in the Bible—but during the time of the divided

monarchy. Thus, the written Hebrew culture of the Iron IIB fits neither the actually existing northern nor southern states, but rather an ideal, culturally defined territory. Ironically, the long sought-after 'ethnic marker' of Israelite 'identity' may turn out to be itself a tool to create that community. But if the skill of writing was not widespread, were Hebrew's users just a narrow, unrepresentative sliver of ancient society? Modern ideas of literacy are inadequate to help us understand how texts circulated in ancient Israel. The assertion that the widespread use of writing is dependent on the technology of modern capitalism is already flatly contradicted in Goody's well-known 1969

collection of anthropological studies of writing. Indeed, the Biblical image of reading is oral and public; texts invoke (qr') communities, and non-literate people are also said to 'read'. The idea of Iron Age Israel was not just the product of late nostalgic literature but also of actual contemporary writing. We do not need to search for an Israelite state as the source of a complex Iron Age culture, but the other way around. Studies of the Moabite state suggest that, rather than simply evolving out of tribes, King Mesha used writing to persuade people with a tribal ideology to think of themselves differently. The state was at least as much about communication as it was about coercion or economics, a new way to represent local communities, not just to kill people and take their things. Na'aman notes that South Levantine royal inscriptions appear about a generation after the

Assyrian empire first placed monumental royal inscriptions on the periphery of the Levant. As opposed to earlier West Semitic writing cultures such as Ugarit or Emar, the West Semites of the first millennium were the first to narrate history. They seem to have taken this idea from the Assyrians. The very notion of history arose in the Levant as a tool of local kings who learned from Mesopotamian empires how to make writing speak in the voice

of a state. My forthcoming book argues that what is distinctive about the Hebrew version is that it places the people, alongside the king, as a protagonist of events, an idea that can be traced to a long and well-attested line of West Semitic tribal political thought. The rethinking of cosmopolitan imperial language in terms of local culture was a groundbreaking historical event that produced West Semitic vernacular writing, and the Bible's history.

Tel Miqne-Ekron Report of the 1985–1988 and 1994 Excavations in Field INE: The Iron Age (Early Philistine Period, Industrial and Cultic Areas and Iron II Lower Fortification System). Text, Data Base and Pottery.

**Ann Killebrew, Pennsylvania State University
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow**



During the 2007 spring semester at the Albright Institute, my research focused on the early Philistine settlement at Tel Miqne-Ekron. Tel Miqne, identified as biblical Ekron, is a major archaeological site located 22 miles southwest of Jerusalem on the frontier zone separating Philistia and Judah. Fourteen years of excavation at this major tell, directed by Professors Trude Dothan and Seymour Gitin, revealed settlements dating to the Middle Bronze, Late Bronze and Iron I-II periods. During these seasons, fieldwork uncovered impressive remains of the Iron I – II settlements (Strata VII – IA; ca. 1175-604 BCE) when the site experienced the arrival of the Philistines and the development of new economic and cultural exchange systems. Due to the scope of these excavations, Tel Miqne-Ekron serves as the “type-site” for investigating the earliest stages of Philistine settlement and as an essential source of information regarding (1) the transition from the Bronze to Iron Age; (2) the arrival and identity of the Philistines, a new ethnic group, whose settlement resulted in the reurbanization of Ekron, and (3) the process of Philistine acculturation spanning 500 years at the site.

The goal of my research project was the completion of the Field I Northeast final report. The excavations in this field, located on the northeastern slope of the acropolis, provide an unparalleled and uninterrupted stratigraphic sequence and archaeological record that traces these processes from the Middle Bronze/Late Bronze I through Ekron's destruction at the end of the 7th century BCE. This final publication, the sixth in

a series of six volumes devoted to excavations in the Field INE sondage, includes: (1) a full stratigraphic report and analysis (comprising a detailed locus description of all excavated loci and their attribution to square phases and general strata); (2) a comprehensive publication of pottery from key contexts and loci, and (3) a complete database of excavated artifacts, plans and sections, and photographs.

The results of my study confirm the foreign origins of the Philistines. Their arrival during the first half of the 12th century BCE at Ekron and other Philistine pentapolis cities mentioned in the Bible is heralded

by the sudden appearance of locally produced Aegean-style material culture that rests directly on top of the end of the Late Bronze II occupation levels at these sites. As illustrated by the Tel Miqne-Ekron material remains, the Philistine phenomenon was the consequence of large scale migration and colonization by prosperous descendants of Mycenaeanized populations, in my opinion originating in the east, who flourished during the final decades of the Late Bronze Age. Although one cannot discount violent encounters as one means of cultural transmission, this earlier adoption of Mycenaean-style culture in the eastern Aegean and on Cyprus during the 13th century was not the result of large-scale migration from the western Aegean. Rather it should be seen as the consequence of longer-term stimulus diffusion, or the gradual transculturation and adoption of Mycenaean-style material culture over time. The subsequent collapse of the Mycenaean palace system in the western Aegean and the demise of imperial powers in the east doubtlessly encouraged significant dislocation and movements of peoples – some fleeing disaster and others seeking opportunity, profit and adventure. These Aegeanized eastern populations, in particular those originating from Cyprus, form the core of 12th century Philistine colonization and occupation at Ekron and other Pentapolis cities in Philistia.

Re-Assessment of the Rudolph Cohen Excavations at Horvat Dafit in Light of Recent Research

**Benjamin Dolinka, University of Liverpool
Ernest S. Frerichs Fellow/Program Coordinator**

My research focused on examining the archives and pottery from the 1983-84 excavations at Horvat Dafit, located in the Wadi Arabah, ca. 16 km north

of Eilat (Cohen, 1984). The site served as a caravanserai along the Nabataean trade route that ran from Aila (modern Aqaba, Jordan) to the southwest coast of the Dead Sea. Cohen proposed three phases for the site: the first he assigned to the 1st century CE; the second he placed in the 2nd-3rd centuries; and for the final phase he suggested a 3rd-4th century date. My primary goal as an Albright Fellow was to test the occupational history provided by Cohen in light of recent research, particularly with regard to ceramic typo-chronologies for the region, since his excavations took place.

For the dating of Phase 1, Cohen was essentially correct. This is borne out by the fact that the earliest Nabataean painted fine ware conforms to Dekorphase 3a proposed by Schmid, or ca. 20-70 CE. Numismatic data also supports Cohen's dating for Phase 1, with the earliest coin attributed to Artaas IV (25 CE) and the latest from the rule of Rabbel II (104 CE). Horvat Dafit, therefore, was established in the early first century CE during the second wave of Nabataean colonization and settlement in the Negev and Wadi Arabah. This initial occupational phase lasted until an earthquake in the early 2nd century CE, after which there is clear stratigraphic evidence for cleaning activities and reconstruction and/or repair to the structure's architectural elements.

Cohen's dating for Phase 2 needed substantial revision. The ceramic material all conforms to known types from the 2nd century CE, such as well-dated forms of Eastern Sigillata A. This date is also supported by the numismatic evidence, represented by a stratified coin from Gerasa dating to the period in question. Additional data is provided by non-stratified numismatics, including coins of Trajan (98-117 CE) minted in Rome, denominations of Hadrian (117-138) minted in Petra, and a coin of Commodus (180-192) minted in Bostra.

For Phase 3, Cohen was off by more than a century. After a thorough examination of the pottery, there is nothing whatsoever within that ceramic assemblage to suggest such a late date. First, there was absolutely no African Red Slip (ARS) pottery present – the hallmark of Diocletianic strata dating to the late 3rd and early 4th centuries CE throughout the Mediterranean basin. Second, Cohen was unfamiliar with the Aqaba Ware pottery, which has only recently been published (Dolinka, 2003), so he tended to date all cream-colored wares later rather than earlier. Based upon the ceramics alone, therefore, Phase 3 at Horvat Dafit should be assigned dates within the late 2nd to early 3rd century CE. Taken together, it is clear that taking a fresh look at an excavation that took place over two decades ago and placing it within the context of what has been learned in light of recent research, can shed light on and provide insights to regional histories that have been previously misunderstood or misinterpreted.

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The Iron Age Tumuli of the Jerusalem Area: An Archaeological Anomaly Between Topography and Text

Matthew Suriano, University of California at Los Angeles
George A. Barton Fellow

My interest in the tumuli relates to my dissertation research, which focuses on the issue of death within a political context in the Iron Age Levant, and to the theory first proposed by Gabriel Barkay that the mounds were originally constructed as memorial sites for dead kings in ancient Judah. If this theory is valid, the tumuli would represent the only examples of royal monumental-funerary constructions from the kingdom of Judah during the pre-exilic period. Consequently, the mounds would help us to better understand the political significance of a king's death and the means by which royal ancestral-identities were affirmed. Of the nineteen mounds first surveyed by Ruth Amiran in 1953, ten still exist despite the encroachment of modern development. My project at the Albright offered me the opportunity to examine each of these mounds, explore their physical setting, and collect GPS readings that were used to develop a topographical map of the remaining tumuli.

As for the function of the tumuli, the royal memorial-hypothesis is one of several possibilities. In the absence of evidence intrinsic to the tumuli themselves, I was able to contribute observations based on their topographical setting. Observations in the field not only provided a basis for gaining a better sense of the topography, but also gave me a new perspective on certain traditions and sources found in the Hebrew Bible.

The major tumuli are located on the western periphery of Jerusalem and are clustered along the northern edge of the

Emeq Rephaim. All of the mounds commanded an imposing view of Emeq Rephaim and all but one (Tumulus 6) were oriented along the sightline of Ramat Rahel, an important archaeological site situated to the east. These topographical factors are important to note when examining the question of the tumuli's purpose. A large royal-palace was located at Ramat Rahel, from which it would have been possible to view Emeq Rephaim in the distance and the mounds across the horizon. The palace was roughly contemporary with the creation of the stone-built tumuli, according to the excavation results of five of the structures (with the possible exception of Rujm Afaneh, excavated by W.F. Albright). The creation of stone-mounds such as tumuli represents one means of recreating landscapes, and an association with the palace at Ramat Rahel may also suggest that the mounds represent some form of royal initiative. The orientation of the mounds along Emeq Rephaim is also intriguing and provides a basis for understanding the toponym – Rephaim – a term that represents a category of royal ancestors in Ugaritic literature (the rapûma) as well as in certain biblical traditions (Isa 14:9). In light of the possible relationship between the tumuli and Ramat Rahel, the association of the mounds with the toponym Rephaim may suggest that their function in antiquity related to royal ideologies and ancestral claims, effectively creating a topography of memory.

The work that I have completed during my time at the Albright has provided the basis for the chapter in my dissertation dealing with royal monuments. The GPS data was converted by George Pierce of UCLA into a series of topographical maps using ArcGIS. These maps, as well the digital photographs I collected will be made available in the entries that I will write for the Encyclopedia of Archaeological Research of the Levant, edited by Aaron Burke as part of the Online Cultural Heritage Research Environment hosted by the University of Chicago.

Constantinopolitan Architects – Local Labor: Aspects of Middle Byzantine Architecture in the Provinces

Marina Mihaljevic, Princeton University
Samuel H. Kress Fellow

My dissertation project, entitled “Constantinopolitan Architecture of the Komnenian Era (1080-1180) and its Impact in the Balkans” deals with a multitude of “provincial” buildings bearing elements of an architectural style, which prevailed in the prolific period of the rule of the Byzantine dynasty of Komnenoi. Unfortunately, the major 11th century buildings of the Byzantine capital known from written sources, have completely vanished, or have retained only rudimentary information on their superstructure. For that reason, in my search for architectural paradigms within the capital, I have turned to the study of ecclesiastical foundations built under the auspices of Byzantine emperors elsewhere in the Byzantine provinces. The importance of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the imperial patronage of its 11th century reconstruction provided me with an unparalleled opportunity to advance my work on tracing and evaluating the sources of Komnenian architectural style.

The aforementioned lack of monuments, and the long-lasting typological scholarly approach to Byzantine architecture has resulted in the fact that Komnenian architectural style has been defined with no relationship to its immediate history. This has contributed to several misconceptions about its constitutive elements, as well as erroneous evaluation of its earlier and later stylistic tendencies. In this respect, the vast building activity of the Emperor Constantine IX Monomachos (1042-1055) presents particularly interesting material. In spite of the enormous importance of the monument, the extent of his intervention in the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher has remained obscure.

The evidence attesting to this building campaign in the present church is scant. Yet, an inspection of a small elevated

chapel provides clear evidence of the involvement of a Constantinopolitan workshop in its execution. However, the plan type of the chapel is completely unknown within the corpus of extant architectural monuments of the Byzantine capital. It displays the so-called Greek-octagonal structural system, the origins and the presence of which have been questioned in the architecture of Constantinople. The small elevated chapel in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher provides the only firm evidence of the utilization of this structural system in a church building executed by Constantinopolitan builders. This argues for the familiarity of metropolitan builders with this planning solution and suggests that the variations of Greek-octagons were certainly in circulation in the Constantinopolitan architecture of the 11th century. Together with the evidence from another imperial foundation, the famous church of Nea Moni, on the island of Chios, Greece, the architecture of the elevated chapel allowed me to consider the shapes of several enigmatic 11th century metropolitan churches, known only through the meager archaeological remains. In my opinion, the archaeological evidence and the written descriptions of the churches of St. George in Mangana and St. Mary Peribleptos can be better explained through the utilization of the Greek-octagon structural type.

This provides a more comprehensive image of the 11th century Byzantine buildings in the sphere of influence of the Byzantine capital, and yields radically new conclusions about the beginning of Komnenian architecture. Previously regarded as a continuation of the earlier well-established practice, architecture of the 11th century appears to be highly experimental. I believe that the patrons’ requirements for the reiteration of models from previous periods encouraged a persistent eclectic tendency in Byzantine architecture. It has occasionally resulted in the most original solutions in Byzantine architecture - such as the Greek-octagon planning formula. That is why the instance of the elevated chapel in the Church of Holy Sepulcher opens up further discussion of the major problem of my dissertation project, i.e., that of the originality in Middle Byzantine architecture.

Silver in the Age of Iron and the Orientalizing Economies of Archaic Greece

Christine Thompson, University of California at Los Angeles
Samuel H. Kress Traveling Fellow

My research this year utilized data from lead isotope analyses of silver hoards excavated from thirteen sites in Cisjordan to reconstruct the role of silver in the Iron Age economies of the region and to trace developments in overseas contacts following the collapse of the Late Bronze Age palace-centered economies. Such a research agenda necessarily transects and contributes to answering many of the more pressing questions of Iron Age archaeology in the Mediterranean including: (1) were any of the Sea Peoples involved in mercantile activities at the outset of the Iron Age, (2) did the acquisition of silver motivate early Phoenician activity in the

western Mediterranean (3) can we identify Sherden material culture near Akko (4) are there archaeologically identifiable links between the Sherden and Sardinia, (5) when did Phoenicians become involved in mineral exploitation in the Aegean and Spain, (6) was overseas trade largely entrepreneurial in the early Iron Age (7) can the archaeological record sustain migrant craftsmen theories, and (8) was biblical Tarshish located in the western Mediterranean?

The results of my research indicate that overseas trade did not disappear at the end of the Late Bronze Age, but rather underwent an inflection of its geographical emphases and primary material objectives. One hallmark of what I have termed the ‘inflected economy’ of the Early Iron Age is the new emphasis on Sardinian silver. Unprecedented data have confirmed Sardinia (somewhat surprisingly) as the most constant supplier of silver to Levantine economies throughout the Iron Age. The surprise is due partly to the lack of evidence

for silver production in Sardinia, as well as to what Classical writers and many modern scholars have believed about the importance of Iberian silver to the Iron Age economy of the Levant.

The lack of finds related to silver production in Sardinia between 1300 and 800 BCE has foregrounded the need for a revised set of expectations of the material record where early production sites are concerned and also encouraged the development of more refined criteria for the detection of silversmith's workshops. My fellowship – in addition to the five months I spent at the Albright -- allowed me five months at the ASCSA where I became aware of recent discoveries in Greece that provide a basis for arguing that direct evidence of silversmith's workshops, either in the east or the wider Mediterranean world, has either not survived or been detected by excavation because of a lack of sufficiently sensitive criteria for their identification. My dissertation presents a new set of criteria that should assist in the retrieval of some of the lost evidence as well as in its recovery from future excavations.

Foodways and Ethnicity in the South Levantine Iron II (10th–8th Centuries): A Microscopic Perspective

Mary Larkum, The University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellow

In my dissertation project, I analyze absorbed residues embedded within cooking vessels using gas chromatography and stable carbon and nitrogen isotope ratios (Spangenberg et al. 2005). The combined use of lipid and isotope analyses has been shown to be a useful research tool, providing valuable information to complement indirect evidence about dietary trends obtained from the analysis of macroscopic ecofacts such as faunal and plant remains. I use these methods to examine Barth's (1969) hypothesis regarding ethnic dichotomies and cultural boundary maintenance by examining whether ethnicity can be discerned through the analysis of cooking in the Iron II period Southern Levant.

An ethnic group has been defined as any people who set themselves apart and/or are set apart by others with whom they interact or coexist on the basis of their perceptions of cultural difference and/or common descent (Jones 1997). Barth identifies the cultural content of ethnic differentiation to be of two orders. The first order comprises overt signs and signals - the features that people look for and exhibit to show identity e.g., dress, language, house-form and general lifestyle. The second order covers basic value orientations - standards of morality and excellence by which performance is judged. When defined as ascriptive and exclusive, the continuity of ethnic groups depends on the maintenance of a cultural boundary. Ethnic boundary maintenance entails situations of social contact between persons of different cultures, implying "not only criteria and signals for identification, but also a structuring of interaction which allows the persistence of cultural differences" (ibid.). Differences between groups become differences in trait inventories. Cooking can be defined as a cultural trait within Barth's category one - overt signs and sig-

Finally, the same data from the Cisjordan hoards correspond with Classical archaeologists who have identified a 'Dark Age' in the Aegean (the existence of which is currently debated), and also offer confirmation of the circulation of Iberian silver in the Levant by the 7th century BCE. The lead isotope analyses so far collected, however, contraindicate Spain as a source of silver important to Levantine economies. It is possible that modern scholarship's fixation on early Phoenician exploitation of Iberian silver, including the possible Tarshish-Tartessos connection, which has in too many instances eclipsed the more important role of Sardinian sources, is the product of a bias introduced by the overly credulous consultation of Classical sources that tend to do the same. It may be that Spain was a source of silver of gradually increasing importance, that accounts of its contributions in the early Iron Age have been exaggerated on the whole but are not without some factual basis, or that further analyses may vindicate Iberian silver as an important component of eastern monetary economies prior to the 7th century.

nals. It is useful for the study of ethnicity because dietary patterns have been posited as essentially conservative remaining long into, and often surviving, processes of cultural assimilation (Mintz and Du Bois, 2002).

An analysis of cooking allows me to examine both food and vessel use to develop a representative database for the Iron II Secondary Kingdoms of the Southern Levant, namely Ammon, Edom, Israel, Judah, Moab and Philistia. This project concentrates on foods cooked in cooking pots and jugs because it was a common food preparation method that is imperfectly understood within archaeological contexts. I chose to analyze cooking ware dating to the Iron II because, according to Joffe (2002), it was a pivotal period in the development of Iron Age cultural identities. Philistia was still a viable entity during the 10th century and, although the archaeological record is far from complete, it indicates that the "core ethnic identities of Israel, Judah, Ammon and Moab were in place by the 9th century." Edom subsequently emerged during the 8th century (ibid.).

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The Schools of Jeremiah: Signs, Symbols and Text Formation in the Book of Jeremiah

Edward Silver, University of Chicago
Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellow

The basic outlines for research into the Book of Jeremiah were established a century ago by Sigmund Mowinckel. His perception that our received text is the product of multiple literary traditions continues to be the best angle of approach to this variegated document. Yet, scholars still debate Mowinckel's argument for a strand of Deuteronomistic, prose-sermonic material in text. It is clear that Deuteronomists had a hand in the formation of the canonical text of Jeremiah, yet it remains difficult to differentiate the thought of the prophet himself from this tradition. Both drew upon some of the same literary precursors and their formative intellectual work took place in the same historical milieu. Mowinckel's hypothesis depends on a clear distinction in ideology between Jeremiah and his Deuteronomistic editors, which does not always hold up in practice. Further, Mowinckel depended upon a difference in style between biblical Hebrew poetry and prose that does not hold true for the late monarchic period.

My dissertation seeks to address this pressing concern. I am attempting to reconstruct the stylistic peculiarities of Jeremiah's language with an eye to clarifying its difference from the style of the Deuteronomists. Jeremiah was sympathetic to the ideological concerns of the Deuteronomists however much he differed from them on matters of national sovereignty and the theological implications of the exile. Any real engagement with supposed prose-sermonic material in the book of Jeremiah must depend on a solid understanding of the prophet's own literary style.

During my time as an Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellow, I have completed a study of Jeremiah's adaptation of a type of multiple rhetorical question formula. We have evi-

dence that he modified a double rhetorical question pattern widely attested in Biblical and Ugaritic literature by introducing a third, contrastive member. Drawing out the pragmatic and rhetorical implications of Jeremiah's development provides us with new insight into his literary style and argumentative concern. This research will culminate in a further chapter on Jer 8, a text that exhibits three such figures in the course of developing a polemic against the Deuteronomists.

I have also traced the difference between these schools at the level of redaction. In a study of Jer 21.11-23.8, I demonstrated the manner in which a group of occasionally delivered oracles regarding specific kings was arranged into a sequential anthology and used to preface an unprecedented pro-Zedekian oracle. Because of its sequential character and its evaluative context, we are afforded the opportunity to compare this collection with the similar sequence of historical material in 2K 23-25. I maintain that a Deuteronomistic editor could not have arranged Jer 21.11-23.8 in the form that we have received it. My study provides evidence for the essential autonomy of the Jeremian tradition at an early point prior to the text's development under a Deuteronomistic hand.

Seeking better to understand the worldview of the post-Jeremian scribal tradition, I have also composed a separate study of Jeremiah 36 to be presented in the session at the ASOR annual meeting entitled "Israel's Political Landscape" jointly co-chaired by Seth Sanders and myself.

My time as an Albright Fellow has been tremendously productive. The atmosphere at the Institute has been congenial, permitting me to make excellent progress on my dissertation. Through consultation with other fellows as well as conversations with scholars at Israeli universities, I have clarified my approach to the text of Jeremiah and its complicated literary history. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked here and I look forward to delivering a dissertation that can attest to the uniquely fruitful environment that Sy Gitin and the Albright Board of Directors have created in Jerusalem.

'The Yahwistic Source': Unity, Authorship and Redaction

Tzema Yoreh, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellow

The goal of my tenure at the Albright was to isolate the complete Yahwistic work, which I believe begins in Genesis 2 and ends in II Samuel 5, based upon my insight regarding the coherence and unity of this source and its supplementary character. This was largely accomplished. I came to the Albright having isolated what I believe to be the J text in the Pentateuch, and I leave having completed the isolation of what I believe to be the J text in Joshua, Judges, I Samuel, and II Samuel. I have identified an amazingly intricate series of symmetries throughout the whole J work. These symmetries were known to the first redactors of the J work, who then proceeded to enhance them. This insight is a very important tool in understanding the process of Biblical redaction and how redac-

tors treated their texts. I argue in my doctoral dissertation for a very conservative version of the supplementary hypothesis; in other words, I don't believe that Biblical redactors purposely erased any of the work of their predecessors, and my research into J goes a long way to proving this contention.

I shall present one moment in the biblical text where the usefulness and/or necessity of this theory is apparent: In I Samuel 14:49-51 the author states that: "Saul's sons were: Jonathan, Ishvi, and Malchishua; and the names of his two daughters were Merab, the older, and Michal, the younger." A second source in I Samuel 31:2, however, states: "The Philistines pursued Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, sons of Saul". In the first source Saul's second born is Ishvi, whereas in the second source the name given is Abinadab. How does one account for the conflicting evidence? Many others have tried to answer this question. My theory offers an intriguing but simple solution to this minor but baffling textual problem. According to the symmetrical structure of this cycle I Sam 31:2: is part of an episode which is parallel to I Sam 16:1-13 - the

anointment of David from among Jesse's sons. The names of David's brothers are as follows: Eliab, Abinadab, and Shamma. Note that David's second brother is named Abinadab, which is the name of Saul's second born as well, according to I Sam 31:2. I would like to argue that the author of I Sam 31:2 had I Sam 16 in mind while he was writing, and that this is what caused this intriguing slip of the pen. This would be a "natural" confusion for an author who is composing his text

with the overall symmetrical structure of the work in mind.

The next steps I plan for this project include fleshing out the reasoning behind the divisions, reviewing pertinent scholarship and detailing the veritable treasure house of exegetical insights exposed by the discovery of the symmetries and my version of the supplementary hypothesis. My present goal is a two volume work, J in the Pentateuch and J in the Prophets, and will hopefully be ready for publication by this time next year.

Heaven on Earth: The Role of Architectural Decoration in the Creation of Sacred Space in Early Byzantine Palestine and Arabia

Karen C. Britt, University of Louisville
Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellow

Germanos I, who was the Patriarch of Constantinople in the 8th c. (715–730), claimed, "The church is a heaven on earth wherein the heavenly God dwells and walks..."¹ The goal of my current project is to reconstruct the relationship between the physical environment, which includes architectural decoration, liturgical furnishings, sights, sounds and odors, and the ways in which this shaped the experience of the faithful in the interiors of early Byzantine churches in Palestine and Arabia. The thesis of my project is that the patriarch's characterization of the church reflected contemporary mentalities towards ecclesiastical architecture, and my research considers the manner in which his description was visually conceptualized in the churches of this region.

In the programs of decoration in early Byzantine church interiors, scholars have commonly assumed that the surface decoration of the buildings was arranged hierarchically with the most significant imagery placed on the ceilings, vaults and walls and the least on the floor. Yet the relationship of the decoration of the walls and ceiling to the floor is difficult to determine because the superstructures of the buildings rarely survive. Nonetheless literary and archaeological evidence indicate that a pivotal transformation occurred in the conception of the church interior between the pre-and post-Iconoclastic periods, which renders such a hierarchical interpretation incorrect. In most cases the archaeological evidence cannot be correlated with literary sources because they attest to artistic trends in disparate regions and, therefore, are only general indicators. The provinces of Palestine and Arabia are an exception. For this region there exist both contemporary literary descriptions as well as substantial archaeological evidence for early Byzantine churches.

By piecing together the physical remains with evidence for the early Byzantine liturgy from sources as diverse as pilgrimage accounts, catechetical lessons, homiletics, and mystical liturgical commentaries, many observations can be made about the conception of the church interior in this region. Moreover, it is only through a panoptic approach—one that considers architectural decoration, liturgical furnishings, and ritual activity—to the church interior, an environment in which function and symbol merge, that an attempt can be made to discern the meanings of the overall programs and

their impact upon the sensory experiences of the faithful.

The most difficult elements to reconstruct in these churches are the paintings, mosaics or revetments of the walls and ceilings, which formed an integral part of the overall decorative program. Literary sources indicate that the same themes found in the abundant floor mosaics of the region also appeared on the walls and liturgical furnishings. Thus, on the interior of churches, the faithful would have been surrounded on all sides by similar imagery, which undoubtedly communicated different levels of meaning. It is fair to say that the interior of the Early Byzantine church would have been saturated with images. As Peter Brown aptly states in his article "Images as a Substitute for Writing," "To enter a church was to enter a mundus transformed. The sudden explosion in the fifth or sixth centuries of exuberant decoration taken from the entire living kingdom...shows a yearning of Christian congregations to become, for a moment, participants in Paradise itself."² The overall goal of the decorative programs was not to create imagery that must be 'read' in order to be understood but rather to create an experience, to envelop the faithful in a paradisaical environment in which everywhere they looked was imagery that encouraged contemplation of their anticipated heavenly reward.

Footnotes:

1 *Historia mystagogia ecclesiastica*, PG 98, col. 348

2 In E. Chrysos and I. Wood (eds.), *East and West: Modes of Communication. Proceedings of the First Plenary Conference at Merida*. Leiden: Brill, 1999, pp. 15–34.

Christian Art in Oriental Literatures: Greek, Syriac and Coptic Sources from the 4th to the 7th Century

Tomasz Polanski, Jagiellonian University, Krakow
Andrew W. Mellon Fellow

My research project focused on Christian art in Oriental literature with reference to Greek, Syriac and Coptic literary sources dated from the fourth to the seventh centuries. This is in preparation for a book, which will discuss Oriental Greek writers together with Syriac and Coptic poetic and prosaic lore and their common interests in Christian figurative art. The subject, which lies mainly in the broad area of the description of Christian art in Graeco-Roman literature, comprises literary descriptions of Christian sculpture, mosaics, wall and icon painting and minor decorative arts. The territo-

rial range is from Syria through the Holy Land to Egypt, and thus covers the territories of the Oriental provinces of the Roman Empire inhabited by mixed Greek, Semitic and African populations.

Consequently, I hope to enrich the Classical Graeco-Roman view of art with a commentary based on original texts in two important Oriental languages, Syriac and Coptic, discussed together with Greek texts.

Church interiors in the East from the 4th–7th century were adorned with images of Christ, the Apostles, the Prophets and Saints as well as with scenes drawn from the Gospels. All of them were arranged on walls and set out according to established patterns. The artists' aim was to completely cover the interior walls with images, as if they were tapestries. The most prominent Greek Fathers, like Gregory of Nyssa, Asterios of Amaseia, Nilus of Ancyra or Choricus of Gaza, time and time again mention and describe painting and mosaic church decoration. The literary material can be found in the historical works of Eusebius of Caesarea, who described a bronze group of Christ and a woman suffering from a hemorrhage in the Syriac Church Histories of Zacharias the Rhetorician and John of Ephesus. The former included an interesting description of Rome and the story of Christ's icon of Camuliana, the latter a view on the column of the Emperor Justin II in Constantinople. The literary evidence can also be found in the works of

the rhetorical school of Gaza, e.g. the cycle of paintings in St. Sergius and St. Stephen Churches described by Choricus or in the so-called Tabula mundi by John of Gaza, an extensive description of the large-scale allegorical painting, composed in a highly artificial Greek poetic language styled on the Dionysiaca of Nonnus.

My book will also include the Sermon on the Three Young Men in the Furnace given by Bishop Theophilus on the day of the consecration of their church in Alexandria and preserved in the Coptic version. The sermon contains an impressive description of the City of Babylon and the image of the Three Young Men probably inspired by the new church decoration. Oriental literature offers us such intriguing and promising material like the image of Christ in the Syriac Teachings of Addai or the Syriac Song on the Cathedral of Edessa. I was impressed by the Christian Syriac art description, which shows its own independent development, and seems to have origins going back at least in part to a pre-Christian tradition. The Edesasan sugitho has all the marks of authenticity. It sounds unique and original, a striking observation to be made by a scholar who has been occupied for some time now with formal descriptions structured according to the rules of the Graeco-Roman rhetoric and poetics. In conclusion, we may legitimately say that Syriac art description does not reflect the Greek art of ephrasis. It follows its own original development.

The Administrative Structure of the Old Babylonian State in the Reign of Samsu-iluna

Lukáš Pecha, University of Pilsen, Czech Republic
Andrew W. Mellon Fellow

The research project pursued during my stay at the Albright Institute, which was supported by an A. W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship, focused on the study of state administration in the late part of the Old Babylonian period, especially during the reign of Samsu-iluna (1749–1712 B.C.). This research is part of my long-term project on the history of Babylonia under this king. The results of the project will be presented in a monograph devoted to this subject.

My main goal during my fellowship at the Albright Institute was to study some recent editions of Old Babylonian texts pertaining to the activity of some state officials. I was especially interested in the texts dating to the reign of Samsu-iluna and eventually, for the sake of comparison, in some other Old Babylonian kings (especially Hammu-rabi, Abi-ešuh, Ammi-ditana and Ammi-saduqa; see Dalley 2005; Dekiere 1994; Dekiere 1995a; Dekiere 1995b; Dekiere 1996; Klengel – Klengel-Brandt 2002; Rositani 2003; Sigrist 2003, Veenhof 2005). Most of those texts come from Sippar in Northern Babylonia but there are also numerous tablets deriving from other sites, such as Kiš, Larsa, Lagaba, etc.

In examining those texts, I concentrated mainly on the officials who were responsible for the administration of state property (the cultivation of state fields, the management of labor forces and soldiers, the supervision of state services and

public works, the collecting of taxes for the state etc.).

Another important issue was the role of the Chambers of Commerce (kārum), which in the time of Samsu-iluna's reign began to be involved in royal administration, especially in the region of Sippar. The role of the officials who were responsible for the administration of a city or of a part of a city (mayors, city elders, city assemblies) was also examined.

The material which I have collected during my stay at the Albright Institute is to be further studied and evaluated -- especially, the mutual relations between individual state officials. This will allow me to interpret the data in a broader context and to analyze the Old Babylonian state administration as a whole. The preliminary reports on some specific issues will be published in the form of articles, whereas the final results of the study of the Old Babylonian state administration will be presented as part of the planned monograph devoted to the history of Babylonia under Samsu-iluna.

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Biblical Hebrew – Spoken

László Hunyadi, University of Debrecen, Hungary
Andrew W. Mellon Fellow

Hebrew was evidently a spoken language in Biblical times. While one can not know exactly how it was used in speech, however, we are aware of its vowel and consonantal system, we even know patterns of word accentuation - all manifested in the notation of the Masoretic system of cantillation dating back to 650-900 C.E.

What we know is not the complete picture. Speech is more than a sequence of sounds arranged in words across accented and unaccented syllables. It also has a tonal and rhythmic structure. Moreover, in addition to representing the primary syntactic relations of a given proposition, it also has to deliver the semantic/contextual content behind that proposition. However, whereas in most cases, syntactic analysis of a written text appears to be relatively straightforward, without actual acoustic material, one can only make less formal inferences about semantic and especially contextual information.

The principle of continuous dichotomy in the Masoretic notation of cantillation (Wickes 1881, 1887) serves to identify groups of words in a verse. Grouping, however, has numerous mismatches with syntax. Accordingly, proposals beyond syntax are needed to capture the essence of the system.

According to several scholars (Wickes 1881, 1887, Yeivin 1980, Breuer 1982, but already Rashi himself), the system of cantillation must have also indicated prosody. Dresher (1994) suggested prosody as its primary function showing that grouping obeys certain phonological rules. Following my previous work as an Albright Mellon Fellow (Hunyadi 1999), in my current research I offer formal evidence for the possibility that the system actually represents intonation. Based on experimental evidence (cf. Hunyadi 2001, 2006), I suggest a cognitive theory

of prosody shared across languages, cultures and time that Biblical Hebrew prosody (including intonation, pausal segmentation) could be conceived as its concrete realizations.

The fundamental principles of this cognitive theory of prosody are as follows: 1. Grouping is inherent – A set of three or more elements of any kind (visual, auditory, syntactic, etc.) is subject to grouping in one's performance. 2. Grouping is recursive – By recursively applying grouping to such elements an unlimited number of possible constructions are generated. 3. Grouping is modality-specific – Every modality (visual, auditory, syntactic etc.) has its own default means of grouping, specific to the given modality with precedence over less specific means. As such, tonal grouping has precedence over temporal grouping. 4. Grouping is based on monotone variation – Elements within a given hierarchy are ordered so that their hierarchical position is denoted by the monotone change of a given grouping parameter.

The application of this cognitive theory of prosody to the system of Masoretic cantillation allows us to assume that the system is compatible with general properties of human prosody including intonation. In addition, the prosodic interpretation of the cantillation signs makes it possible to identify certain communicative and logical functions within the text (focus, topic, logical scope), thus offering formalism for possible textual interpretation.

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Epigraphic Evidence for the History of Samaria in the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman Periods

Dr. Jan Dušek, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
Andrew W. Mellon Fellow

The main goal of my tenure at the Albright Institute was the study of new epigraphic evidence relating to the history of Samaria in the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman periods. At the beginning of my stay, I spent a lot of time in different libraries in Jerusalem, where I tried to gather as much information as possible from the literary sources on ancient Samaria, including the works of ancient historians on the history of Samaria: mainly the *Jewish Antiquities* by Flavius Josephus, the books of the Maccabees, and other Greek historical texts of antiquity. I also studied the reports of archaeological excavations and archaeological surveys from the region of the ancient province of Samaria (Samaria-Sebaste, Tell Balatah, Mt. Gerizim,). These served as a chronological framework for the analysis of epigraphic evidence from Samaria and for its historical interpretation.

The second phase of my research concentrated on the epigraphic evidence. In this phase, I studied the epigraphic sources for Persian and Hellenistic Samaria, focusing mainly on an analysis of the inscriptions from Hellenistic Samaria. Thanks to the help of the Albright Director, S. Gitin, Yitzhak Magen, Yoav Zionit, Tamar Rabbi-Salhav and Allegra Savariego, I was able to study the original inscriptions located in different institutions in Jerusalem. The largest corpus of written evidence I studied were the Hebrew and Aramaic inscriptions from Mt. Gerizim. I also studied the ostraca and the stamped jar handles found in the excavations in the city of Samaria-Sebaste and in Tell Balatah, and one small fragment of papyrus written in Hebrew script and language which was discovered at Masada.

This evidence allowed me to see which types of script were used in Hellenistic Samaria and in which context. I studied the Mt. Gerizim inscriptions from two points of view: paleographic and the way they were carved in stone. Both approaches seem to be complementary.

My paleographical analysis of the Mt. Gerizim inscriptions confirmed the conclusions of the editors of these inscrip-

tions. The editors compared its script mainly with the oldest texts from Qumran. I compared the script of these inscriptions with other types of texts: the latest manuscripts from Wadi Daliyeh and with some Aramaic inscriptions from the 3rd century BCE. This comparison allowed me to establish the relative chronology of the inscriptions and to propose an approximate dating for some of these inscriptions. Nevertheless, these dates are only hypothetical; the proof for a clear absolute dating is missing.

With this relative chronological framework I analyzed the scribal practices reflected in the Mt. Gerizim inscriptions. I studied mainly the use of the lines that rule some of these

inscriptions, and their development and was able to define at least two patterns of ruling of Aramaic inscriptions. A comparison of Hebrew inscriptions with some latter Samaritan texts was very interesting and showed the historical origin of some Samaritan scribal practices.

In addition to these concrete results of my analysis of the Mt. Gerizim inscriptions, my stay at the Albright Institute enabled me to have an overview of the archaeological, epigraphic and numismatic evidence of Hellenistic Palestine. In the coming months, I will continue my research on the history of Hellenistic and Roman Samaria. This historical framework is indispensable for my research and will be very helpful.

Glass Finds from Hippos/Sussita (Israeli-Polish Excavations, 2000–2006)

Mariusz Burdajewicz, National Museum of Poland, Warsaw
Andrew W. Mellon Fellow

The ancient city of Hippos/Sussita is situated on top of a hill on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Founded in the Hellenistic period, the city was known by the Greek name of Hippos, or by the Aramaic name of Sussita. After the conquest of the region by the Romans in 63 BC, the city became one of the Greco-Roman towns of the Decapolis. It flourished during the Byzantine/Umayyad periods, and after the earthquake of AD 749, it was abandoned and never rebuilt.

In 2000, archaeological excavations at Hippos began as a joint Israeli-Polish project headed by A. Segal (Haifa University), with J. Mlynarczyk (Warsaw University) and myself (National Museum in Warsaw) as the co-directors. From the beginning of the project, I was responsible for the glass finds from the Polish and Israeli excavations.

More than 1,000 diagnostic fragments have thus far been recorded, creating an opportunity to undertake a thorough study of the glass vessels used by the local inhabitants of Hippos between the Late Hellenistic and early Islamic periods. However, due to the short period of my fellowship, I decided to limit the scope of my study to finds from the North-West Church area, which include the following contexts: part of an early Roman *temenos* with scanty remains of pre-Roman architecture; the Christian basilica with its remains; and an industrial area to the north of the church (a winery from the 8th century).

As a result of my study, I have worked out a rudimentary typology, which will be expanded and refined in the future. As is usual at settlement sites, the glass finds are fragmentary, and it is sometimes difficult to identify all of them with any certainty. Therefore, as a point of departure for further study, I have chosen only the best-preserved items, including all of the intact or fully restorable vessels. The presentation has been arranged in typological order, without any wider discussion of the stratigraphic/chronological context of individual items. Geographical distribution and chronology of individual types, as well as statistical data, will be fully presented after the exploration of the church is completed in 2007, in a final publication.

The glass finds from the area of the North-West Church compound are important because most of them come from the relatively short period of time, directly preceding the destruc-

tion of the city by the earthquake of 18th January 749. There are also important sherds from sealed loci, which pertain to the pre-church occupation of the site. Although a detailed account of the glass finds is still to be done, it seems that most of them represent open vessels: drinking vessels (cups and goblets), dishes, lamps, etc. Closed shapes are represented mostly by large and small bottles, jars, and just a few cosmetic vessels. As for the Byzantine-Umayyad glass assemblage, it resembles assemblages from other churches in the region, such as those at Khirbat al-Karak or Kursi. On the other hand, almost all the types found in the church appear also in non-ecclesiastical contexts, that is, in domestic and public ones, for example, in baths. Some of the vessels, (e.g., the lamps), are regular paraphernalia of synagogues. The results of my research are to be presented in the forthcoming annual report for 2006 on the Hippos excavations.

Call for Papers for the National Coalition of Independent Scholars' 2008 Conference

The NCIS will hold its **2008 Biennial Conference from October 24–26, 2008, at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA**. We welcome participation by all scholars whose research is not supported by employment in an academic or research institution, including adjunct faculty and graduate students. Presenters need not be members of NCIS.

The Program Committee invites proposals for individual papers, formal sessions, and short panel discussions for either the practical track, on independent scholarship itself, or the scholarly track, focusing on presenters' individual research and findings. Proposals should consist of an abstract of not more than 250 words, a brief scholarly biography (50-100 words) including degrees, scholarly fields and no more than two publications, any audio-visual requirements, and full contact information. **Proposals must be submitted as an email attachment (Word only) no later than 12:00 a.m., April 1, 2008, to Kendra Leonard, Program Chair, at caennen@gmail.com.** Please use your last name as the document title. Only one submission per author will be considered. If you are interested in serving as a session chair, please indicate this in your submission.

Individual paper presentations are limited to no more than 20 minutes. Formal sessions of three related papers may be submitted together for consideration as a whole; please submit the proposals for all three papers together in one email along with a rationale explaining the importance of the topic and the grouping of papers. Proposals for one-hour informal sessions, including discussions on work in progress, consideration of a particular theme in independent scholarship, or interest group discussions within a particular area may also be submitted. **Kendra Preston Leonard, 5216 Oleander Road, Drexel Hill PA 19026 USA. caennen@gmail.com; www.kendraprestonleonard.com**

Pacific Northwest AAR/SBL/ASOR

George Fox University, Newberg, OR
May 2-4, 2008

The 2008 Regional Meeting of the PNW AAR/SBL and ASOR will be held on the campus at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon.

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<http://www.jcu.edu/Bible/EGLBS/>
EGLBS@jcu.edu

Mid-Atlantic AAR/SBL

2008 Regional Meeting

March 27-28, 2008

Hyatt Regency New
Brunswick

2 Albany Street

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

<http://www.marsbl.org/>

Mid-West Meeting

2008 Annual Conference

"The Body, Healing, and Medicine"

February 15-17, 2008

The Weber Center
at Olivet Nazarene University
in Bourbonnais, IL

<http://www.midwestsbl.org/>
watersmw@uwec.edu

**Southeastern Commission for the
Study of Religion**

2008 Regional Meeting

March 7-9, 2008

Marriott Century Center,
Atlanta, GA

<http://secsor.appstate.edu/>
ostwaltce@appstate.edu

FELLOWSHIPS FROM THE CYPRUS AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CAARI), NICOSIA

The Helena Wylde Swiny and Stuart Swiny Fellowship

One grant of \$1000 to a graduate student of any nationality in a U.S. college or university to pursue a research project relevant to an ongoing field project in Cyprus; to be used to fund research time in residence at CAARI and to help defray costs of travel. Residence at CAARI is required.

Application Requirements: project statement; expected schedule of work; budget; curriculum vitae; two letters of recommendation.

Deadline: February 1, 2008.

Information & Submission of Applications:

CAARI at Boston University, 656 Beacon Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02215; Fax: 617-353-6575; Email: caari@bu.edu

CAARI Senior Scholar in Residence

An established scholar who commits to stay at least 30 days in succession at CAARI, ideally in the summer, and to be available in evenings and weekends to younger scholars working there, in return for 50% reduction in residency rate. Must have PhD in archaeology or ancillary field for at least 5 years prior to visit, be fluent in English (but may be of any nationality), and be committed to mentoring students. Travel, other expenses not covered.

Application Requirements: Letter detailing the applicant's proposed schedule; summary curriculum vitae.

Deadline: April 15, 2008

Information & Submission of Applications:

Director, CAARI, 11 Andreas Demitriou St., 1066 Nicosia, Cyprus. Email: director@caari.org.cy

Traveling Fellowships from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation

Fellowship with Albright Institute

One dissertation research fellowship annually for a Ph.D. student in archaeology, architecture art history, or classical studies. Award: \$18,500 for ten months. Five months at the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem and five months at one other ASOR school, in this case CAARI.

Application Requirements: Applicants must demonstrate the necessity for residence at the Albright and at CAARI to complete their research. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or students studying at U.S. universities.

Deadline: October 1, 2007.

Information: Application forms may be found on the Albright's website at www.aiar.org. For more information, Dr. Joan R. Branham: jbranham@providence.edu

Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) Fellowship for Multi-Country Research

Multi-Country Research Fellowship Program
for Advanced Multi-Country Research

Approximately 10 grants of up to \$9000 each. Fellowships require scholars to conduct research in more than one country, at least one of which hosts a participating American overseas research center. Applicants must be US citizens, with Ph.D. or Ph.D. candidates.

Deadline: 11 January 2008

Information & Application Forms: <http://www.caorc.org/fellowships/multi/>

Fellowships in Art History at Foreign Institutions

Four \$22,500-per-year Kress Institutional Fellowships in the History of European Art for a two-year research appointment in association with one of a list of foreign institutes, among them CAARI. Restrictions: Restricted to pre-doctoral candidates in the history of art. Nominees must be U.S. citizens or individuals matriculated at an American university. Dissertation research must focus on European art before 1900. Candidates must be nominated by their art history department.

Information: Samuel H. Kress Foundation, 174 East 80th Street, New York, NY 10021; www.kressfoundation.org/twoyearfell.html

Fulbright Research Fellowships

Fulbright Scholars Program for postdoctoral research in Cyprus

For information: Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 3007 Tilden Street NW, Suite 5 M Washington, DC 20008-3009; Telephone: 202-686-7877

Fulbright Student Program for predoctoral research in Cyprus

For information: Fulbright Student Program Institute of International Education, 809 U.N. Plaza New York, NY 10017-3580; Telephone: 212-883-8200

The Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI) in Nicosia, Cyprus, welcomes scholars and students specializing in archaeology, history, and culture of Cyprus and the eastern Mediterranean. CAARI is located in central Nicosia close to the Cyprus Museum, major libraries, and the main business and commercial district. In addition to hostel accommodation for a total of twelve residents, the institute has excellent research facilities: a 10,000-volume library, comprehensive map and artifact collections, archival material, and facilities for Internet, scanning, and photography. Further information on CAARI: <http://www.caari.org/home.htm>





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