1-6-1972

The Organization of the Expedition

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Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Isaiah 1:18
hopeful feature in connection with institution X is not the amount of brains they have; it is the fact that they are willing to learn of the Great Teacher and have respect for the words of counsel and admonition coming to them from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. In all the changes that may come with the passing of the years, and the development of the work, I hope that this encouraging feature will always remain a leading characteristic of everyone connected with institution X from this time on to the end."

Like Gideon, we may become discouraged. But God can endure our discouragement if we will only go on and do His will. When Gideon needed encouragement to finish his work God sent him to the camp of the Midianites. Gideon didn't know how to deliver Israel with 300 men, but God did. What a glorious victory was Gideon's. Yet not his, but the Lord's. He knew to whom belonged the victory.

Gideon was in a great battle for the Lord. We have the privilege of being not only in a great battle for the Lord but in the final battle for the Lord. How is our courage? It may faint at times, but let us remember, this is the battle of the Lord. As anciently they shouted, "The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon," so our shout should be "The third angel's message and its proclamation to the world." Our basic tenet is not to make this world a better place for people to live in, but rather to prepare people to live in a better place, a new world.

Have you ever wondered how the 31,700 men felt who went home? I am determined by the help of God to be not in their company, but in that of the 300. We may pine for the lost leadership of Sister White, Elder Daniels, Elder Spicer. Don't fret. Daniel, Moses, Gideon, Elijah, are also not here as leaders, but God will have His appointed leaders for the final hours in the closing of this message. God has always used human instrumentalities, and He will continue to use men.

Let us discover what the sins of our church are, and right these wrongs. Let us use our intelligence and brains in harmony with God's revealed will in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy writings. Let us plead that the Holy Spirit will give us sanctified judgment. Then it will not be by clever manipulation or by any particular expertise that we will join in the final proclamation of the third angel's message.

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**The Organization of the Expedition**

By SIEGFRIED H. HORN

(Last week the author presented a brief account of Heshbon's history, as well as a report on the checkered history of the Heshbon expedition.)

**A**s in the 1968 season, the staff of the 1971 Heshbon expedition consisted of a number of professionals and students from both foreign countries and Jordan. The 52 staff members represented a variety of religious affiliations and nationalities: 19 were Seventh-day Adventists and formed the largest single group, but the Lutheran, Methodist, Swedenborgian, Catholic, and Baptist churches were also represented. Our Jordanian colleagues professed the Islamic faith. The foreign group, which comprised 40 people, consisted chiefly of United States citizens; others were nationals of Canada, Britain, Norway, Germany, and Holland. In this group were 16 professors in universities, colleges, or theological seminaries, 18 graduate students, one editor, and one medical doctor.

This diverse group of people lived and worked together in singular harmony. Most were dedicated to the task at hand, and they did their best to make the seven weeks of our field operation profitable. Even physical discomforts, such as sprained ankles and smashed toes, did not keep staff members away from their work. On no excavation have I worked with a group that was as united in its organization as was the group taking part in the Heshbon expedition of 1971.

As in the previous expeditions, I served as director of the expedition. My tasks were to formulate our aims, give over-all direction to the work, coordinate the functions of the various phases of the organization, make all payments, hire workmen, carry out all negotiations with the government, and be press officer and general troubleshooter of the expedition. Dr. Roger Boraas, of Upsala College, East Orange, New Jersey, served again as chief archaeologist. He was the main instructor of the participating students and saw to it that the digging was done in a scientific, stratigraphic manner, and that the aims of the expedition were carried out.

The mound was excavated in four major areas, designated A, B, C, D, where the work had been begun in 1968. In addition to these four areas, a search for tombs was carried out in two ancient cemeteries, labeled areas E and F. The work in each area was directed by an area supervisor, a staff member with previous archeological training and field experience. Dr. Dorothea Harvey, of Urbana College, Urbana, Ohio, directed the work in Area A; James Sauer, a doctoral candidate at Harvard University, was in charge of Area B; Dr. Henry Thompson, my successor as director of the American Center for Oriental Research in Amman, was the supervisor of Area C; Lawrence Geraty, also a Harvard University doctoral student, carried the responsibilities over Area D; and Dr. Douglas Waterhouse, of Andrews University, was in charge of Areas E and F.

The four area supervisors on the mound were assisted by associates who helped take records and make drawings, so as to leave the area supervisors as free as possible to devote their whole attention to the supervision of the actual digging.

**Subdivisions Into Squares**

Each area was subdivided into "squares," a technical term used for any four-cornered plot regardless of shape—for it could be either a true square or a rectangle, or even a trapezoid. Supervision of the work performed in the squares was generally done by students, called square supervisors.

The actual manual labor was performed by about 120 Jordanians hired from the village of Heshbon and surrounding villages. Many of these had already worked for us in the previous season of excavations, and some were quite skillful. The labor force worked under the overall direction of an able foreman, Mohammad Murshed, who was loaned by the Jordanian Depart-
ment of Antiquities to the expedi-
tion. He is a gifted man who speaks
English and German well. With his
polished, helpful, and always
friendly disposition he endeared
himself to all staff members. Be-
cause he is a professional restorer
for the Department of Antiquities,
he also cleaned all our coins.
A word must be said about the
other Jordanian staff members.
Seven of them were archeology ma-
jors at the University of Jordan
whom I had had in my classes there
during the preceding six months.
Nabil Khairy, a member of the fac-
culty of the University of Jordan,
and Samir Ghisan, a former Depart-
ment of Antiquities inspector, had
joined the expedition to gain more
experience in actual field work.
Hussein Qandil was the official rep-
resentative of the Department of
Antiquities. His presence, as the
government representative, was sal-
utaray when there were disputes with
workmen.

Other Professionals
An archeological organization
also needs professionals in various
other areas. First of all, mention
should be made of Dr. Reuben Bu-
lard, of the University of Cincin-
nati, one of the few geological ex-
erts interested in the geological-
archaeological aspects of Biblical
studies. He made a careful geologi-
cal survey during a two-week period
preceding the excavations and iden-
tified 59 kinds of stone on the
mound, most of them used as build-
ing material. He also discovered sev-
eral ancient quarries in the vicinity
of Heshbon and solved some ge-
ological-mineralogical problems that
had arisen as the result of the 1968
season.

Dr. Bert De Vries, of Calvin Col-
lege, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was
our surveyor, as he was also in 1968.
Prof. Carl Droppers, of Case West-
ern Reserve University of Cleve-
land, Ohio, was the expedition’s
architect. Together they completed
the topographical survey of the
mound, begun in 1968, and made
plans of all major architectural re-
 mains, including tombs and cisterns,
discovered in the course of the exca-
vations.

The photographic work was done
by Alvin Trace, of Kingsway Col-
lege, Oshawa, Ontario, who was as-
sisted by Mary Bachmann, a profes-
sional photo lab technician. Udo
Worschech served part time as pho-
tographer for color shots and part
time as a square supervisor in Area
A. The photographers were kept
busy, especially because of the fact
that we found three times as many
objects as in 1968—more than 900
as compared with 325. All of these
objects had to be photographed, in
addition, field shots had to be taken
every working day. After months of
negotiations the military and civil
aeronautics authorities of Jordan
issued us a permit to make aerial
photos of the mound. A Piper Cub
was rented, and good aerial photos
were taken. These photos show
topographical details of the mound
configuration not readily seen on
the ground. Unfortunately, the per-
mit came toward the end of our
season, so that this summer’s work
could not benefit from the study of
the pictures taken. However, it is
our hope that a careful study of
these photographs will help us to
decide the best places to dig next
season, so that our future work on
the mound will provide the greatest
benefit.

The anthropological department
was represented by Prof. Robert
Little, of Andrews University, and
Stan La Bianca, a graduate student.
The former, whose work allowed
him to come to our aid for only two
weeks, did most of his work on the
human skeletons found in the
tombs, while the latter worked un-
tiringly on the animal-bone ma-
terial that was uncovered daily in
great quantities. The bone work
shows what animals served as food
to the ancient people of Heshbon
and what other animals came into
the life of the Heshbonites. A pre-
liminary survey of the bones shows
at least 15 kinds of quadruped, 11
kinds of bird, two kinds of reptile,
and four kinds of fish.

Pottery Remains
One of the most important activi-
ties of an archeological expedition
is the collecting, processing, and
evaluation of all pottery remains.
In most cases these are found in the
form of the rims, handles, bases,
and fragments of the bodies of an-
cient ceramic vessels. The humble
sherd, found in quantities of many
tens of thousands, serve as the time
clock to the layers or structural re-
 mains in which they are found.
Without them the Palestinian
archeologist would be at a loss to
know from which period walls of
buildings, foundations of structures,
dumps of waste material, or objects
belong, because he usually does not
find inscriptive material. The pot-
tery, being unique in shape, texture,
or decoration, serves to provide this
needed information to the expert
trained in Palestinian ceramics.
James Sauer, who has already been
mentioned as the supervisor of Area
B, was our pottery expert. He was

The 52 staff members of the 1971 Heshbon expedition included professionals and students from six foreign countries and Jordan.
trained by the late archeological genius Paul Lapp and gives promise of becoming one of the best Palestinian archeologists. An estimated 200,000 sherds were found during the digging operation this summer, and collected in buckets. Each bucket carried a tag containing the exact information as to where the sherds were found. At headquarters the day after they were discovered the sherds were washed, dried, and then identified (we called it "read") in daily afternoon sessions under Sauer's supervision. The information about the sherds obtained at pottery reading was entered into the record books kept by area and square supervisors, and representative pieces were kept from almost every bucket for future study and reference. Mrs. Hester Mitchell, my secretary, as well as a graduate student at Andrews University, joined the expedition as her secretary. Her secretarial activities, however, were limited by the above-mentioned great influx of objects, since she also served as objects registrar. She cleaned all of the objects, assisted with the coins by Mohammad Murshed, and registered them in an accession book for the Department of Antiquities and on permanent file cards to be brought back to America.

The organization at the headquarters would not be complete without mentioning Mrs. Marilyn Chapman, of Grand Rapids, the camp director. She supervised the cleaning of the dormitory rooms, discussed the menu and the purchase of groceries with the cook, and helped in the pottery registration operation. Her 14-year-old daughter, Judy, was a valuable messenger girl on the mound, and also assisted wherever her help was needed in the field, as well as at the headquarters.

The American Community School on the western outskirts of Amman was kindly placed at the disposal of the expedition free of charge through the kindness of the school board's chairman, Richard Undeland, the information officer of the U.S. embassy in Amman. This plant served us ideally as headquarters. Three classrooms were used as sleeping quarters, and a large hall was used for pottery and bone registration, as well as for the surveyor-architects. The octagonal auditorium was our dining room, and an adjacent kitchen was the domain of Mohammad Adawi, the cook who has served on archeological expeditions in which I have taken part for the past ten years. He had four permanent assistants, one of which went with us daily to the mound to prepare our second breakfast. We also had a darkroom for the photographers, an office for the director and objects registrar, and large courtyards for pottery washing, reading, and cutting, and for our several private cars.

The Daily Program

It was a great advantage for us to have electricity, a consistently sufficient amount of running water, and enough work space—luxuries not every archeological expedition enjoys. These facilitated the work and promoted the morale of the staff. A word of thanks is due Mr. Undeland and the school board for allowing us the use of this fine school.

A great amount of money is spent by an archeological expedition. Money is needed to pay the wages for local labor, to purchase supplies and equipment for the various operations connected with the dig, to buy food, and to pay for transportation to and from the mound. In addition, practically all staff members spend large sums of money to travel at their own expense to Jordan and to pay for their maintenance. If they are learners they also pay for tuition. Hence, every effort is made to use the short time of seven weeks of actual digging in the most profitable way. The actual work was performed in five days each week, Monday through Friday. This allowed those who wanted to see important places, such as Petra or Jerash, to make weekend trips. Especially those staff members who had never been in Jordan were eager to get time to see the country during their stay in Amman. The five working days, however, were filled with activities from 3:45 A.M., when the rising bell was rung, until 9:00 P.M., when the lights were supposed to go out. Many did not always get to bed on time, though, and one frequently saw the light stay on in the office, the pottery-and-bone lab, in the photo darkroom, or in the dining room, where the writing of daily reports had to be finished.

At 4:00 A.M. the first breakfast was eaten, and by 4:25 the 40-seat bus, rented with a driver from the De'Ou Saleel Company, was left for Heshbon. At 5:00 the foreman's whistle marked the start of work, which, with two breaks, went on until 1:30 P.M. The first half-hour break came at 8:30, when second breakfast was eaten in a large tent. (This tent and two others, which were used as bone lab and tool tent, were loaned to us by the Lutheran World Federation through its kind Amman director, Dr. Joseph Thompson.) The second break, this time of 15 minutes, called "tea break," came at 11:15, when the whole staff gathered each day at a different area to be briefed by an area supervisor about what had been accomplished in his particular area during the past several days.

After the work stopped on the mound at 1:30, a group of dusty and weary archeologists loaded with pottery buckets and objects boarded the bus to return to the headquarters in Amman. At 2:30 dinner, the main meal of the day, was served, but often after a late period. Pottery reading was held from 4:45 until 6:30, and after the evening meal, served at 6:30, there were lectures, staff meetings, report writing, and other chores.

Each workday was well filled. ++

(Next Week: "Archeological Methods Employed at Heshbon")

REVIEW AND HERALD, January 6, 1972