

Andrews University

Digital Commons @ Andrews University

Faculty Publications

Summer 2012

Gregor in Croatia

Paul Z. Gregor

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs>

with two parallel squares (R5 and 6). They are located on a steep slope immediately east of a recently constructed tourist walkway through the site. The trail's placement is directly over the assumed course of the citadel wall.

Square R6 was the most productive of the two squares and revealed a N-S line of stones with two faces that gave an indication of a wall (Wall 3), but the excavations did not reach deep enough to uncover additional courses. The wall also extended into Square R5. Wall 2 consisted of a flimsy line of stones, one or two courses in depth, that ran along the surface in a N-S line, close to the western edge of the square. It may have served as a sheepfold or pen. Wall 7 abutted the north end of Wall 3, running roughly SW for about 1.5 m before turning NW, and disappearing into the balk. No floors or surfaces could be related to this wall. A roughly rectangular stone with a rectangular depression was found upside down at the corner, possibly relating to a door or gate. The associated ceramics date from the Hellenistic to Mamluk periods. The objects found here include a bangle made of Roman glass, a Roman-period coin, roof tiles and pieces of painted plaster from the nearby church, as well as numerous architectural fragments. Much more excavation is needed in this area before anything can be said about the eastern edge of the citadel.

One of the biggest challenges that has confounded efforts to present the story of Tall Hisban is how to account for the large, oversized, Iron Age I-II water reservoir, just below the summit. Although no excavation was undertaken this season in the reservoir area, a great deal of time was spent by the staff inspecting the exposed bedrock of the structure. A question which Hudon had posed before the beginning of the season, based on his earlier excavation experience in Israel, is if perhaps this reservoir could have been part of a royal garden. Having worked at the site of Ramat Rahel, which is believed to have been a royal garden sponsored by King Uzziah or Hezekiah, Hudon suggested that the team look into



Paul Gregor.

the possibility that the reservoir might have been part of some sort of royal palace garden. LaBianca agreed and persuaded Stan Beikmann, Assistant Professor for Landscape Design in the Department of Agriculture, at Andrews University, along with one of his students, Kristin Wallace, to undertake a comparative study of royal gardens in the ancient world to see what parallels might be found to help with interpreting the Hisban reservoir. After a season of research we now posit this possibility as the most plausible interpretation for the 10th-9th BC reservoir at the site.

In addition to the excavation, a new circulation path starting at the entrance, and moving along the western, lower terrace, gently scaling the side of the mound, and then going throughout the remainder of the site, was developed for tourist purposes. To enhance this experience, 17 of the older bilingual (Arabic and English) signs were repaired or replaced, and 18 new ones were added. Plans are also being developed for a new welcome center at the entrance to site. (Øystein S. LaBianca, Maria Elena Ronza, and Jeffrey P. Hudon)

Gregor in Croatia

From June 18-20, 2012 Paul Z. Gregor attended an international academic conference focusing on research on Cultures of the Ancient Middle East, where he presented a lecture on "Water Systems in the Middle East," with emphasis on the latest discoveries from the Tall Jalul excavations. Dr Gregor was the only presenter from the United States, the others coming from various countries in eastern Europe, including Serbia, Slovenia, and Macedonia, with a large number from Croatia itself.

The lectures were conducted at the Archaeological Museum of Zagreb, Croatia. Most of the studies dealt with Roman Archaeology and material culture which is well represented in Eastern Europe. The paper on the Tall Jalul water system was well received and there was a healthy discussion during the question-and-answer period. Most of the audience had never participated in an excavation on the scale of Tall Jalul, in Jordan. (Paul Z. Gregor)

