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ASOR 2019 Annual Meeting

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The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



ASOR 2019 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the *American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR)* was held in San Diego from November 20-23, 2019. This year there were 105 sessions, in which over 500 papers and posters were presented. The Plenary address was presented by Eric Cline, of The George Washington University, entitled “Dirt, Digging, Dreams and Drama: Why Presenting Proper Archaeology to the Public is Crucial for the Future of Our Field.”

This year, papers presented by Madaba Plains Project (MPP) members and affiliates include: Bethany Walker (“Cottage Industries”: Understanding the Complexities of Household-Based and Small-Scale Industrial Activity at Tall Hisban); Chang-Ho Ji, with Chiam Ben-David (“I made the Road Across the Arnon”: The Moabite Road System in the region of Wadi Mujib and the Dhiban Plateau); Randall Younker (The Iron Age Ceramics from Tall Jalul, Jordan); Chang-Ho Ji, with Aaron Shade (Khirbat Ataruz in Iron IIB-IIC: Ceramic and Architectural Finds and Their Implication for Moabite Archaeology); P. M. Michèle Daviau (The Real Moabite Painted Ware: Recognizing a Local Tradition); Kent Bramlett, Monique Vincent and Friedbert Ninow (The 2019 Season of Excavation at Khirbat al-Balu‘a in Central Jordan); Jeffrey Hudon (A Royal Jar Handle from Tall Jalul, Jordan); Moise Isaac (Reexamining Teo Indecipherable Hebrew Inscriptions); S. Thomas Parker (A Tale of Two Cities: Historical Implications of Quantified Ceramic Evidence from Petra and Aila); Jehad Haron and Ahmad Lash (Bayt Ras Tomb: A New Discovery in North Jordan); Øystein LaBianca (A “Global Turn” for the History of Archaeology of the Ancient Near East); Darrell Rohl (Place as Process: Process Philosophy and the Archaeology of Place); Maria Elena Ronza (Employment and Heritage—Fostering a Legal Framework within the Jordanian CRM Job Market); Bert de Vries (Integrating the Archaeological and Literary Islamic Heritages);

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
HORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

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Larry Herr, Douglas Clark, Lawrence Geraty, Randall Younker and Øystein LaBianca at Luncheon.

Owen Chesnut (The Ammonites and the Assyrians: Religions and Agricultural Practices at Tall Safut in the Iron Age II); Josephine Verduci (Death and International Destruction in the Ancient Near East); and David Graf (Excavations of a Nabataean Farmstead at Umm Hamtha: Agriculture in the Highlands of Petra).

Those MPP members who chaired sessions and workshops and Business Meeting of the program include: Owen Chesnut, with Joshua Walton (Archaeology of the Southern Levant); Helen Dixon, with Marta Ameri (Creative Pedagogies for Teaching in the Ancient Near East and Egypt: Next Steps—Collaborating, Sharing, and Validating Creative Approaches to Teaching Workshop); Douglas Clark, with Suzanne Richard, Andrea Polcaro and Marta d’Andrea (Preserving the Cultural Heritage of the Madaba Region of Jordan Workshop), which included MPP affiliates Øystein LaBianca, Maria Elena Ronza, Douglas Clark, Timothy Harrison, Chang-Ho Ji and Jihad Haron, as panel members and discussants; Darrell Rohl, with Tobin Hartnell (Theoretical and Anthropological Approaches to the Near East); Bethany Walker (Consultation of Dig Directors in Jordan), and Lawrence Geraty (Madaba Plains Project Consultation).

Finally, a special luncheon was held in the honor of Lawrence T. Geraty, which also served to initiate the *ASOR Lawrence T. Geraty Community Archaeology Endowment*, which will “heighten awareness and facilitate the participation of local communities in taking care of heritage sites” as well as provide grants that “will incentivize local engagement with protection, preservation, and presentation of archaeological sites in Jordan.” (Paul J. Ray, Jr)



MPP at 50 Years

The Institute of Archaeology and Andrews University recently celebrated its 50th anniversary of the Madaba Plains Project through a series of lectures held at

Andrews University, the Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research held in Boston and La Sierra University. The first lecture entitled, “The Spade Confirms the Book Revisited: Celebrating 50 Years of MPP” based on the Siegfried H. Horn’s original book, *The Spade Confirms the Book* (1957) was given by Randall Younker, the Director of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University, with a response from Lawrence T. Geraty, President Emeritus of La Sierra University.

The archaeological work of Siegfried H. Horn, the Institute of Archaeology, and the Andrews University Heshbon Expedition and later the Madaba Plains Project has been praised for its professional approach toward excavating in modern Transjordan. Archaeologists like William Dever, who at one time, sought to rename biblical archaeology to Syro-palestinian archaeology to encourage a more scientific approach, singled out Andrews University and the Madaba Plains Project as exceptional in its methodology and interpretation. He said, “I am full of admiration for this very progressive and productive project. I have supported it strongly from the beginning and many of my graduate students are there.” The Madaba Plains Project has remained fully committed to the Bible while maintaining the highest professional standards.

Horn began his career as a biblical archaeologist, following World War II, when, as a person of German descent, he was interned by allied forces. While in the prison camps he continued to study the Bible and ancient history, teaching his fellow inmates what he had learned. When he immigrated to the States, he sought a PhD from William F. Albright, at Johns Hopkins University, but was rejected because he “already knew everything” that Albright could teach him. Instead, he got his PhD in Egyptology at the University of Chicago, finally excavating a biblical Shechem, where he was William Dever’s square supervisor. Through that experience, Horn realized that if Adventists were going to be taken

seriously in Biblical Studies they needed to be working in the field of Biblical Archaeology because archaeology is the only source of new information for the Bible.

Controversy over the Exodus story inspired Dr Horn to look for a site to excavate that might help answer questions about the biblical story. Kathleen Kenyon had recently re-evaluated the excavation of Jericho and concluded, through her own work, that there was no destruction of the city that corresponded to the biblical story in the book of Joshua. In her opinion, the ancient city of Jericho, mentioned in the Bible was actually abandoned during that period. Horn wondered if there might be another site that could help give insight into this question. After consulting several renowned archaeologists, including Albright and G. Ernest Wright, Horn settled on Tall Hisban because it was believed to be biblical Heshbon, which is mentioned as part of the Exodus story.

Unfortunately, after years of excavation at Tall Hisban they did not find any evidence of a Late Bronze Age destruction associated with the biblical conquest of King Sihon’s Heshbon, mentioned in the book of Numbers. However, Horn insisted on publishing preliminary reports promptly using a professional, meticulous, and detailed methodology, outlining exactly what was found even if it did not confirm his original hypothesis. He also developed a diverse team that included a variety of disciplines adding to the project’s credibility and prestige. This allowed the project to expand its intellectual framework and to ask new questions about the ancient peoples that lived at Tall Hisban.

Horn also helped several scholars including Larry Geraty, who later succeeded him at Andrews, establishing the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews in 1980, and becoming the senior project director of the Madaba Plains Project (MPP), begun in 1982; Larry Herr, who directed excavations at Tall al-‘Umayri, and became a world-class ceramic specialist; Øystein LaBianca, who