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Jordan Conference in Florence

Paul J. Ray

Andrews University, rayp@andrews.edu

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The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



Jordan Conference in Florence

The theme for the Fourteenth International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan (ICHAJ), which was held in Florence, Italy, on January 21-25, 2019, was “Culture in Crisis: Flows of Peoples, Artifacts and Ideas.” The triannual conference is under the patronage of HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal and was co-organized this time by the Department of Antiquities of Jordan (DAJ), the Universitas * Florentina * Studiorum / Università Degli Studi Firenze / Dipartimento di Storia, Archeologia, Geografia, Arte, e Spettacolo (SAGAS), and the Center for Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies (CAMNES).

The keynote speakers for the conference were Øystein LaBianca with a presentation entitled: “A ‘Global Turn’ for the History and Archaeology of Jordan: Scholars Engaging a Planet and a Culture in Crisis” and Giovanni Curatola, whose presentation was entitled: “The Necessary Archaeology.” About 220 papers were read by researchers from various parts of the world.

Papers presented by current and former participants of the Madaba Plains Project and its predecessor, the Andrews University Heshbon Expedition include: When Nabataeans Settled in the Hejaz: New Insights from the Nabataean Fine Ware Found in Hegra/Madā‘in Sālih, North West Arabia (Yvonne Gerber); The Nabataean Crocodile Betyl (David Graf); Figurines and Statues from Khirbat al-Mudayna Thamad (P. M. Michèle Daviau); Slope Consolidation Works in the ‘Siq’ of Petra: a Pioneering Approach (G. Cesaro, G. Delmonaco, M. Jamhawi, S. Farajat, T. Salhi, H. al Taher, H. Lawamah, K. Amryyin, and H. Hjazeen); The Roman Tomb (Mausoleum) of Dhiban (Khaled Al Hawawrah and Basem Mahamid); The Khirbat ‘Ataruz Cult Stand (Stefani P. Elkins); Sundial Discovered in Amman Citadel, 2009 (Adeeb Abu Shmais); *Omnem Movere Lapidem* “To Move Every Stone:” Latin Proverb (Gary Rollefson); The Madaba Regional Archaeological

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
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NEWSLETTER

Paul J. Ray, Jr.	Editor
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Dorian Alexander	Asst. Editor

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Conference Participants Did Some Site Seeing, such as at the Ponte Vecchio Bridge, Florence, Italy.

Project: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Preserving the Archaeological Park while Envisioning a New Museum (A. Polcaro, M. D'Andrea, R. Gabrielli, M. Cozzolino, G. Batocchioni, L. Romagnoli, V. Gaspari, B. Lucherini, F. Sciorilli, D. Clark and S. Richard); The Flow of Peoples, Artifacts and Ideas through Jalul (Randall W. Younker); Khirbat Safra: A Military Installation or Regular Settlement (Paul Z. Gregor); Jordan in Global Histories: the View from Tall Hisban (Øystein LaBianca); Khirbat Ataruz in the Late Iron IIB and Iron IIC Periods: Synthesizing 15 Years of Archaeological Excavation Findings (Aaron Schade and Chang-Ho Ji); The Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project (MRAMP): Three Years of Community Archaeology (D. R. Clark, S. Richard, A. Polcaro, M. D'Andrea, and B. Mahamid); The Ayyubid and Mamluk Khans at Aqaba (Reem Al Shqour); Jalul on the Crossroads of Great Empires (Constance E. Gane); Is Community Engagement in Archaeology Building Social Capital in Jordan? Reasoning on a Decade of Community-Oriented Projects in Jordan (Maria Elena Ronza); A Landscape of Peace at Umm el-Jimal: Using Spaces of the Mind and Spaces on the Ground to Link the Islamic Heritage of the Modern Community and the 'Pre-Islamic' Heritage of an Archaeological Site (B. de Vries, M. Hazza, D. Al Farraj, M. Al Haddad, and J. Suleiman); Archaeology Meets Astronomy: in Search of Our Origins (E. Hatziminaoglou and D. R. Clark); Searching for Petra's Non-Elite Population on the North Ridge (S. Thomas Parker); and Resilience in the Face of Regional Crises: Identifying Local Knowledge and Decision-Making at Mamluk-era Hisbān (Bethany Walker).

Project Members who chaired sessions for the Conference include Gary Rollefson (History and Archaeology of Jordan: Prehistory 3), Hanadi al-Taher (Public Archaeology and Social-Economic Development 4: Conservation and Site Management 2), and Maria Elena Ronza (Public Archaeology and Social-Economic Development 7: Museum and

Collection). In addition, Bert de Vries chaired a workshop on "Signage Manufacture at Umm el-Jimal: Creating a Microbusiness for Vandalism-Resistant Installations, and Douglas R. Clark and Marta D'Andrea chaired a workshop on "Community Engagement in Downtown Madaba: The Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project (MRAMP)." The Poster Session included posters by Bassem Mahamid and Abdullah al Bawareed entitled "The Rehabilitation Project of Madaba Cathedral," and Maria Elena Ronza and Eman Abdassalam entitled "Employment Through Heritage Project – EHP." The Conference Papers, as usual, will be published in the next conference volume: *Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan, Volume 14*. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Safra 2019

The second season of excavations at Khirbat Safra was conducted between June 2-July 12, 2019. The excavations on the site were directed by Paul Z. Gregor, and Paul Ray of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University, with Ray and PhD archaeology candidate Jacob Moody functioning as Field Supervisors. Nisrin Khaed Fugh'a and Amal Rawahna served as representatives for the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.

Khirbat Safra is an approximately 2.6 acre, triangular-shaped site, located southwest of Madaba and Main, overlooking the Dead Sea, with a casemate wall system surrounding the perimeter. Excavations this season took place in two fields (B and D). Each excavation square, as in the previous season, was opened using GPS on the basis of a grid of 6.0 x 6.0 m squares laid over a topographic map created by the Department of Antiquities surveyors during the survey season in 2017.

In Field B, on the southwestern edge of the site, supervised by Paul Ray, four new squares (B4-7) were opened this sea-

son, with another (Square B3), partly excavated in 2018, being completed at this time. Bedrock was reached in parts of four of the five squares, with Square B7 being worked for only a few days.

Last season, it was discovered that in terms of the preparation for occupation, both here and elsewhere on the site, first a two-row outer wall was built directly upon the exposed bedrock, at the edge of the site. Crevices in the bedrock were filled with a hard, red-bricky, material, upon which a one-row inner wall and cross walls were added. This season, operations in Field B concentrated on tracing parts two buildings, consisting of long-room structures, sharing one wall, and connected with the broad-room casemates previously excavated.

Building 1, the westernmost structure, was traced to the northwest from the broad-room casemate structure in Square B1, throughout Square B4, and much of Square 6. Its eastern wall, which is shared with Building 2 is completely extant, but most of the western wall is located in an area that, is as yet, unexcavated. This wall was traced for a short distance before it disappeared in to the west balk of Square B4, just beyond a postern (side) entrance, to the west. The main entrance to the building is on the north side of the building, with what appears to be the bedrock footing to a ghost wall, on its western end.

The outline of Building 2 is clearer than its western neighbor, and was traced throughout parts of all five squares (B3-7) excavated this season. With the exception of a few short sections, still within unexcavated balks, its walls are completely exposed. The western wall, which is shared with Building 1, and its parallel to the east, were traced slightly over 12 meters to the northwest from the broad-room casemate structure in Square B3, to the south. The entrance to the building is in the northwest corner, as opposed to the center, of the north wall. The building is subdivided on its southwestern side by a small room, with its entrance on the east, from the main room. Further to the north, located on a shelf of bedrock, on top of