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ASOR 2015

Paul J. Ray

Andrews University, rayp@andrews.edu

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ASOR 2015

The venue for the 2015 Annual Meeting of the *American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR)* was at the Intercontinental Buckhead Hotel, in Atlanta, GA, and was held between November 18-21. The meetings were attended by 875 registrants, who listened to 450 plus paper presentations, and viewed 40 posters. Susan Alcock, of Brown University, was the speaker for the plenary session this year, with a paper entitled “Stepping It Up (Like a Ziggurat): The Place of ASOR in the 21st Century?”

Other professional organizations where sessions on archaeology were offered in relatively close proximity were the Society of Biblical Literature, held on November 22-25, and the Near East Archaeological Society, held on November 17-19.

Madaba Plains Project members and affiliates who presented papers included: Gary Rollefson, with Yorke Rowan, Alexander Wasse, Austin Hill, and Morag Kersel (Excavation and Survey in the Wadi-al Qattafi, Jordan: Results of the 2015 Season); Bethany Walker (New Perspectives on Village Life at Tall Hisban, Middle Islamic Period); Kent Bramlett, with E. R. Taylor, Monique Vincent, and Douglas Clark (New 14C Dates for the Late Bronze and Iron I Strata for Tall al-‘Umayri); Jody Washburn (Prayers in Caves—A Reevaluation of the Beit Lei and el-Qôm Inscriptions); David Graff (Central Jordan Epigraphic Survey); Monique Vincent (Early Iron Age Households and Community at Tall al-‘Umayri, Jordan); Abelardo Rivas (Cultic Objects of Lights from Ataruz); Basem Al Mahamid (Transition from Nomadic to Settled Life in Iraq al-Amir Village, 1800-1950); Stephanie Brown, with Katie Simon and Christine Markussen (A Geo-physical Survey of Iron Age Busayra in Southwest Jordan); Hanadi Al-Taher (The Transitional Period between the Ayyubid-Mamluk and Ottoman Periods in the Light of the Archaeological Excavations at the Site of



Giorgia Lazarone.

Umm Zuwaytina); Douglas Clark, with Suzanne Richard, Christian Anderson, Leer Greer, Lawrence Geraty, Ervin Taylor, Megan Miller, Ronald Nance, Karimah Richardson, Kent Bramlet, and Kristina Reed (A DNA Profile of Four Humans from Bronze and Iron Age Jordan); Justin Singleton (Broadening the Geographic Context of Biblical Archaeology to the Central Mediterranean: Sicily); Shellie Cox (A Reexamination of the Mortuary Basilica at San Miceli, Sicily); Christopher Chadwick (Excavating at San Miceli, Sicily: Two Seasons at a Late Roman Village); Giorgia Lazarone (North African and Middle Eastern Influences in Early Christian Art in Sicily: The Case of the Mosaics in the Basilica of San Miceli in Salemi); Elisabeth Lesnes (The Circulation of Ceramics in the Overall System of Mediterranean Exchange: The Role of Sicily in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages); Matthew Vincent, with Chance Cooghenour, Mariano Flores Gutierrez, Victor Manuel Lopez-Menchero Bendidcho, Dieter Fritsch, and Marinos Ioannides (Integrating Data: A Holistic Approach to Cultural Heritage—The Case of the painted Church of Asinou, Cyprus from the EU Initial Training Network for Digital Cultural Heritage); and Bert de Vries (Reopening an Ancient Entrance for the Modern Community: Preservation and Rehabilitation of the Commodus Gate at Umm el-Jimal).

Those who chaired sessions and business meetings this year included Randall Younker, with Al Leonard (Sicily and the Levant: Diachronic Perspectives on Interconnections); Douglas Clark (Madaba Plains Workshop); Bethany Walker (Consultation of Dig Directors in Jordan); and Lawrence Geraty (Madaba Plains Project Staff Consultation).

Poster Presentations were made by Abelardo Rivas and Rhonda Root, with Robin Johnson and Ariel Soliz (Mutidisciplinary Comparative Analysis of Neolithic Structures in Cavan Buren and Similar Early Bronze Structures in Cisjordan and Transjordan); Matthew Vincent, with Chance Coughenour, Fabio Remondino, and Bruno Kessler (Project Mosul: Preserving the Past through Crowd-Sourced Imagery); and Monique Vincent, with Matt Vincent and Jillian Logee (Balking at Balks: New Approaches to Section Drawings).

At the Near East Archaeological Society, Paul Ray presented a paper entitled “The House: Basic Material Unit of Ancient Society”; Ralph Hawkins, a paper entitled “The Early Israelite Highland Villages and Modern Family Values”; and Robert Bates, a paper entitled “Recent Discoveries at Khirbet Ataruz and their Implications for Iron Age Cult.” (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)

