



May 11, 2010

Dear fellow ASOR member:

As we near the summer season, ASOR has been presented with a fantastic opportunity, and I would like to share the details with you. Thanks to three generous donors and matching funds from a NEH Grant, ASOR has a **challenge gift opportunity** that will benefit the Archives Initiative. All new gifts to the Archives Initiative this fiscal year (until June 30th) will be **matched 4 to 1!** These challenge gifts are a tremendous opportunity for you to make a real difference in this historically significant project.

The ASOR Archives Initiative seeks to document over a century of ASOR's institutional history and the history of biblical archaeology. The oldest records date from the 1875 expedition of the American Palestine Exploration Society, a precursor of ASOR. The collections document important moments in the history of archaeology, including ASOR's role in the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Nelson Glueck's extensive surveys and excavations of Transjordan and the Negev Desert, and the continually evolving political and cultural atmosphere of the Near and Middle East. For more on the ASOR Archives Initiative, please see www.asor.org/archives.

ASOR needs your help to raise funds in order to preserve and protect these irreplaceable items from deterioration. **With these challenge gifts, a contribution of \$50.00 will be matched with \$200. Likewise, a gift of \$100 will be matched with \$400.** These matching funds have been pledged for new gifts up to \$5,000. Thus, if we are able to raise \$5,000 in new gifts, ASOR will receive \$20,000 in matching funds. All donors to ASOR will be recognized for their generosity in the Annual Meeting Program Book and in an upcoming ASOR Newsletter. Help ASOR make the archives accessible to researchers while preserving ASOR collections for perpetuity.

I hope that you will join me in giving to this worthy cause. You may make your contribution by following the link on the ASOR homepage (www.asor.org), or you may mail a check to ASOR, 656 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215. If you make your gift online, please send an email to asor@bu.edu and let us know that it is intended for the archives challenge. Please return your gift as soon as possible because we only have until **June 30th to qualify for these matching funds**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me personally—my email is asored@bu.edu and my direct phone is 617-353-6574.

Best regards,

Andrew G. Vaughn, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Andrew G. Vaughn, Ph.D.
Executive Director

American Schools of Oriental Research *located at* Boston University
656 Beacon St. | 5th Floor | Boston, MA 02215-2010 | tel. 617-353-6574 | fax: 617-353-6575 | asored@bu.edu | www.asor.org