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American Schools of Oriental Research Newsletter

ASOR

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2001 Annual Meeting in Review

The 2001 Annual Meeting of ASOR, held November 14–17 in Boulder Colorado, was a smashing success, due in large part to the dedication and hard work of several individuals and groups of people all the way from the Boston ASOR office to committee chairs and members, presiders, participants and attendees. The following report represents their many contributions.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
(Eric Cline, chair)

Annual Meeting Program

It is a pleasure to note that we had a full slate of sections and presentations in Boulder. This is very good news and maintains the momentum of the past several years, reflecting significant growth from the time of our “rebirth” in 1994. The program statistics reveal an increasing number of participants and attendees and a growing diversity of programs presented at the Annual Meetings. We were, in Boulder, completely, absolutely and totally full with four concurrent sessions running in each available time slot. The Program Committee is exploring ways to maintain the high level of energy and participation in the Annual Meetings as well as sustain and enhance the quality of presentations.

The three special evening sessions, one each

on Wednesday (the plenary ASOR lecture by Larry Stager on Ashkelon and its neighbors), Thursday (a session of lectures and discussion by Bill Dever, Kyle McCarter and Norman Gottwald on the history of ancient Israel), and Friday (the public session on Jerusalem through the ages by Ronny Reich, Hillel Geva and Mahmoud Hawari) drew good crowds and comments. In addition, the joint sessions on Connectivity in Antiquity co-sponsored by ASOR and the American Anthropological Association (AAA) have added a new dimension to cooperative efforts among scholarly groups. This will also be the case with the joint endeavors between ASOR and AIA at the latter’s annual meeting in Philadelphia next January where we are co-sponsoring a session on The Galilee: Archaeology and Early Christianity. This is the second such event with AIA.

The breadth and depth of participation at the 2001 Annual Meeting were apparent in the following statistics:

attendance – 440
number of participants – ca. 250
number of presentations – 211
geography of research – from Greece and Cyprus around the Mediterranean and Mesopotamia through the Levant to Egypt
geography of presenters – 15 countries
time periods covered – from prehistory

through modern times disciplines – from traditional approaches through all the scientific and theoretical disciplines related to modern archaeological endeavors people – old and young, female and male, biblical and non-biblical, established senior scholars and upstart graduate students).

The international character of the 2001 Annual Meeting becomes clear with the following (unaudited) figures:

National makeup of presiders and presenters: US 199; Israel 39; Canada 16; England 14; Jordan 3; Australia 2; Austria 2; France 2; Germany 2; Switzerland 2; Italy 1; Japan 1; Lebanon 1; Mexico 1; Poland 1.

Of the US attendees, 30% came from the Eastern US, 28% from the Central US, 27% from the West and 14% from the South.

A Complicated Financial Tapestry

Planning and staging the Annual Meeting is like weaving a complicated tapestry with threads of varying sizes and strength, deriving from various sources, and reflecting a variety of tensions and textures. This is particularly true with regard to the intertwining of registration fees, room rates, conference costs for food functions and equipment expenses for

Continued on page 6

ASOR HONOR ROLL

The Torch Campaign is now in its second year. ASOR wishes to acknowledge all those who have pledged and contributed. Thank you for your support, we appreciate your continuing commitment to the Campaign.

\$250,000 +

P.E. MacAllister

\$100,000 - \$250,000

John Camp

Austin & Norma Ritterspach

\$20,000 - \$50,000

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Holland Hendrix

George Mendenhall

Eric & Carol Meyers

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\$5,000 - \$9,999

Jeffrey Blakely

George Landes

Barbara Miley

Thomas & Alice Pickering

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Oded Borowski

Cobb Institute of Archaeology

William Dever

Paul Fitzpatrick

Nan Frederick

Crawford Greenewalt, Jr.

Norma Kershaw

Timothy Harrison

Al Leonard, Jr.

Jodi Magness

Victor Matthews

Kyle McCarter

David McCreery

David Rosenstein

R. Thomas Schaub

Lydie Shufro

Larry Stager

Jim & Carolyn Strange

Randall Younker

\$500 - \$999

Douglas Clark

Howard & Janet Kee

Øystein LaBianca

Tammi Schneider

Jonathan Rosen

\$0 - \$499

Randy Akers

Eugene Balter

Neal Bierling

Robert & Jane Bigelow

Nancy Broeder

Dan Cole

Sidnie White Crawford

Frank Moore Cross

David Detrich

Norma Dever

F.W. Dobbs-Allsopp

Harold Forshey

Sy Gitin

Victor Gold

Milton & Claire Gottlieb

Ann Killebrew

Philip King

Eric Lapp

Jesse Long, Jr.

Robert Miller

David Norris

Kevin O'Connell

Andrew Oliver

Suzanne Richard

Joseph & Carolyn Rivers

Bruce Routledge

Jeremy Rutter

Lee Seeman

Robert & Beverly Shumaker

John Spencer

Stuart Swiny

Gus Van Beek

Gerald Vincent

Jane Waldbaum

James Weinstein

Joseph Weinstein

Prescott Williams, Jr.

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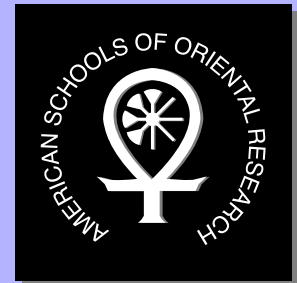
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MEMBERS HONORED AT ANNUAL MEETING

ASOR again honored several of its members with the presentation of awards at the annual meeting in Broomfield, Colorado, November 14–17. The awards were presented during the members meeting on November 16 which was followed by a reception honoring the recipients of the awards. Each of the recipients received a plaque recognizing their achievements and contributions to ASOR. Harold O. Forshey, Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee presided over the presentations assisted by members of the Committee as well as other ASOR members. The Committee, including Walter Aufrecht, Øystein LaBianca, Martha Risser and Michael Toumazou, solicited and reviewed nominations and certified the selections for the awards. The names of the 2001 award recipients and the texts of the citations follow:

Charles U. Harris Service Award. 2001 (Presented by Joe D. Seger) Awarded to William G. Dever

ASOR is proud to present the Charles U. Harris Service Award for 2001 to William G. Dever for his distinguished long term service to ASOR. William Dever's outstanding contribution to the archaeology of Israel was recognized by ASOR with the presentation of the first P. E. MacAllister Field Archaeology Award in 1997. His service to ASOR includes the editorship of BASOR 1978–1984 and service as Vice President for Archaeological Policy (1982–1998). He was a longtime member of the Board of Trustees of ASOR and also of the W. F. Albright Institute and the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute. From 1971-1975 he served as director of the W. F. Albright Institute having previously served as Director of the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archae-

ology in Jerusalem (1966-1971). His sixteen books and more than 300 articles have made him one of the most widely know experts in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology.

It is with sincere respect that William G. Dever is recognized for his outstanding contributions to ASOR and to the Archaeology of Syria-Palestine with the presentation of this 2001 Charles U. Harris Service Award.

G. Ernest Wright Publication Award 2001 (Presented by Walter Aufrecht) Awarded to Michel Fortin

The ASOR G. Ernest Wright Award is given to the editor or author of a substantial volume of original research dealing with archaeological material, excavation reports and materials culture from the ancient Near East and eastern Mediterranean. ASOR is proud to present the G. Ernest Wright Award for 2001 to Michel Fortin for his edition of *Recherches canadiennes, sur la Syrie, antique* (Quebec: Muse de la Civilisation, 2000). This volume includes twenty-six papers by scholars of ancient Syria which were originally presented at the Colloque annuel de la Societe canadienne des Etudes mesopotamien, from 21 to 23 September 2000; a conference organized by Michel Fortin and sponsored, in part, by the American Schools of Oriental Research in Canada. The volume demonstrates the latest research on ancient Syria, from the Lower Paleolithic to the Islamic Period. Aspects of human activity discussed include such things as prehistoric subsistence strategies, technology and settlement patterns; Bronze Age trade, technology, state formation and religion; Iron Age technology, languages international relations and religion; and Islamic

period technology, trade, politics and architecture.

Ernest Wright always stressed two things in his scholarship: first, the integrative and interdisciplinary nature of archaeology; and second, the importance of archaeology for understanding our world. This volume illustrates and continues this work, and its editor, Michel Fortin, is thus a most worthy recipient of the 2001 G. Ernest Wright Publication award.

Frank Moore Cross Publication Award 2001 (Presented by Walter Aufrecht) Awarded to Baruch Halpern

The ASOR Frank Moore Cross Publication Award is presented to the editor or author of a substantial volume of original research related to ancient Near Eastern and Eastern Mediterranean epigraphy, text and/or tradition. ASOR is proud to present the Frank Moore Cross Award for 2001 to Baruch Halpern for his book, *David's Secret Demons: Messiah, Murderer, Traitor, King* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001). At once magisterial and richly detailed, this volume weaves texts, traditions and archaeology into an extraordinarily rich tapestry. Halpern explores all of the Davids available to us in an epic work of historical investigation and imagining. This book is written with scholarly erudition, intellectual virtuosity, humanistic sensitivity and a lot of humor. Halpern's treatment of David is positively targumic in the way it translates the David of the past into a David for our age. Quite simply, this book makes a significant contribution to knowledge. In so doing, it indisputably meets the standards established for this award: the scholarship of Frank Moore Cross in whose name it is presented.

W. F. Albright Service Award for Contributions to CAARI 2001 (Presented by Michael Toumazou) Awarded to Nancy Serwint

ASOR is proud to present this 2001 W. F. Albright Service Award to Nancy Serwint in recognition of her substantial contributions to the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute. Dr. Serwint's association with CAARI goes back to 1982 when she became the first recipient of an NEH fellowship and took up residency at the Institute. Since 1983 she has been working regularly with the Princeton University excavations at the ancient site of Marion-Arsinoe and she is currently the Assistant Director of that expedition. Previously she worked at Morgantina in Sicily, the Athenian Agora and at ancient Corinth. In 1993, she was elected to the Board of Trustees of CAARI and has remained in active service on the Board since that time. Returning to Cyprus in 1994 for a sabbatical year, Dr. Serwint served as Interim Director at CAARI for 1994-1995. In 1995, she was appointed Director of CAARI, a post she held until 1999 when she returned to the states and resumed her teaching responsibilities at Arizona State University.

Among her contributions to CAARI, two are particularly noteworthy: First she was involved in the initial work of creating a web site for the Institute; and second, in 1998 she, together with Diane Bolger, organized the highly successful international conference, *Engendering Aphrodite; Women and Society in Ancient Cyprus*. This conference provided a new approach to gender studies on Cyprus, addressing a variety of gender issues in Cypriot archaeology from the Neolithic into the modern period.

Nancy Serwint has published in a diversity of scholarly venues on issues focusing on Cypriot terracotta sculpture and coroplastic techniques as well as Greek athletic sculpture. She is responsible for the analysis and publication of the massive corpus of votive terracotta sculpture from ancient Marion, numbering over 22,000 fragments. She is also

studying the terracotta sculpture recovered from the Polis-Pyrgos Archaeological Project in Cyprus as well as the sculpture from the Rantidi Forest Excavations and the Persian period terracotta sculpture from Tell Halif in southern Israel.

It is with sincere respect that Dr. Nancy Serwint is recognized for her outstanding contributions to CAARI and for her contributions to the archaeology of Cyprus with the presentation of this 2001 W. F. Albright Service Award.

W. F. Albright Service Award for Contributions to AIAR 2001 (Presented by Sidnie White Crawford) Awarded to John R. Spencer

ASOR is proud to present this 2001 W. F. Albright Service Award to John R. Spencer in recognition of his contributions to the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research. Dr. Spencer has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Albright Institute, and of the Institute's Executive Committee, since 1987. From 1993-1997 he was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board. Since 1997 he has been Vice-President and Chair of the Fellowships Committee, the most important committee of the Albright.

John Spencer is regarded as a voice of sanity and clarity in the Executive Committee and at Board meetings. At least once a year he travels to Jerusalem to meet with the Fellows at AIAR to be sure their scholarly and personal needs are being met.

Dr. Spencer is currently a twice elected Institutional Trustee of ASOR and chairs the Board Committee on Institutional Membership. He also served as a member of the ASOR Centennial Committee.

It is with sincere respect that John R. Spencer is recognized for his selfless dedication to the W. F. Albright Institute and ASOR with the presentation of this 2001 W. F. Albright Service Award.

ASOR W. F. Albright Service Award for Contributions to ACOR 2001 (Presented by Larry Geraty) Awarded to Patricia Bikai

ASOR is proud to present this 2001 W. F. Albright Service Award to Patricia Bikai in recognition of her contributions to the American Center of Oriental Research. One of the great success stories of American archaeology in the Eastern Mediterranean lands is the story of ACOR, the American Center for Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan. Whether the measure is increased availability of fellowships and grants for both junior and senior scholars to study in Jordan, expansion of partnerships between foreign and Jordanian scholars working in Jordan, facilitation of foreign archaeological expeditions, growth in the holdings of the ACOR library, improvements in ACOR's financial support base, communication with ACOR veterans, contributions to the excavation, preservation and presentation of Jordan's archaeological heritage in Petra, Madaba and Amman; publication of new books on the archaeology of Jordan; or inclusion of new academic disciplines in the scholarly mix at ACOR whatever the measure Patricia Bikai deserves a significant share of the credit!

As Dr. Bikai herself will readily acknowledge, ACOR's remarkable progress over the past ten years has involved teamwork first of all with husband Pierre Bikai and other ACOR staff, but also with Artemis Joukowsky and the members of the ACOR board but it is she more than anyone who has made sure that there has been follow-through on commitments. More often than not, her style has been to work behind the scenes, communicating via email and phone, advocating for ACOR and its projects in Jordan and beyond.

While serving ACOR and the archaeology of Jordan in all these ways, Patricia has also managed to make significant scholarly contributions to the archaeology of the Eastern Mediterranean, including several seminal articles on the Phoenicians and the widely acclaimed volume, *The*

Mosaics of Jordan, which she edited and championed through the production process. The newly published Petra Church volume is a further testimony to her outstanding work as a scholar. Everyone connected with ACOR is deeply indebted to Patricia Bikai for her institution strengthening labors, as well as for her inspiration as a colleague and friend. It is with sincere respect that Patricia Bikai is recognized by the presentation of this 2001 ASOR W. F. Albright Service Award.

**ASOR Membership Service Award
2001 (Presented by Harold Forshey)
Awarded to Nancy Frederick**

ASOR is proud to present this 2001 ASOR Membership Service Award to Nancy Frederick for her multifaceted contributions to ASOR and its affiliated Institutes. Nancy Frederick spent 30 years with the U. S. Agency for International Development (AID) of the Department of State where her last post was as Deputy Director of AID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA). It was in this latter role that, recognizing the hegemony between archaeology and economic development in Jordan, she became instrumental in ASHA's contributions to ACOR in building and equipping its current quarters.

Since her retirement from government service in mid-1991 she has been a trustee of ACOR and ASOR, serving as ACOR's representative to the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) as

well as a representative of ACOR on ASOR's Centennial Working Committee. Since 1996 she has been on the ASOR Executive Committee and now serves as Chair of the Personnel Committee.

It is with sincere respect that Nancy Frederick is recognized for her outstanding contributions to the work of ASOR and ACOR with the presentation of this 2001 ASOR Membership Service Award.

**ASOR Membership Service Award
2001 (Presented by Seymour Gitin)
Awarded to Jodi Magness**

We are pleased to present a 2001 ASOR Service Award to Jodi Magness for her distinguished service to ASOR and the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research. Dr. Magness is a scholar of limitless energy. Her "Opus Magness" c.v. is twenty pages long in a nine-point font. Among her many awards, she holds the record for fellowships at the Albright Institute. But she is a strong believer in reciprocating honor with service. She is currently serving as a trustee on three boards. She is an Institutional Trustee on the ASOR Board; an Academic Trustee, Secretary of the Board, and member of the Executive Committee of the Albright Institute; and an Academic Trustee of the Archaeological Institute of America.

In addition, she is currently a member of the Nominations, Personnel and Agenda Committees of ASOR, and chairs the Nominations Committee for the Albright Institute. For the Archaeological Institute

of America, Dr. Magness is serving on the Lecture Program Committee, the Professional Responsibilities Committee, the Cultural Properties Legislation and Policy Committee, and she is Chair of the Near Eastern Archaeology Committee. A member of the Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, she also serves on the Excavations and Survey Committee of that organization. She is a member of the Nominations Committee of the Register of Professional Archaeologists; she serves on the Editorial Committee of Near Eastern Archaeology, and presides over the Boston Society of the Archaeological Institute of America.

Jodi Magness has also served on the Albright Fellowship Committee and ASOR's Committee on the Annual Meeting and Program (CAMP), and has worked with CAMP to develop joint ASOR/AIA sessions at the annual meetings of the Archaeological Institute of America. In the past several years she has also helped to organize receptions for Albright alumni/ae at the AAR/SBL meetings. As Sidnie White Crawford recently wrote, Jodi Magness "is one of the most important cogs in the Albright machinery."

For her strong record of service to ASOR, the Albright Institute and other professional organizations, it is with sincere respect that the contributions of Jodi Magness are recognized by the presentation of a 2001 ASOR Member Service Award.

The Annual Meeting Book Display and You

We encourage ASOR members who have authored books they would like displayed. At the 2001 meeting in Colorado, there were at least twenty books by ASOR members available. If you are interested, please get in touch with the ASOR publications office (asorpubs@asor.org) with details, including if possible a contact at your publisher. Full details will be available on the Annual Meeting page on our website in April 2002. A message will also be sent to the ASOR-I discussion list at that time.

Joint AIA/ASOR Colloquium

The second joint AIA/ASOR colloquium, held in Philadelphia at the annual meetings of the Archaeological Institute of America on Friday, January 4, 2002, was another resounding success. The colloquium, entitled "The Galilee: Archaeology and Early Christianity," was organized by Eric H. Cline, Chair of the ASOR Program Committee. The speakers included ASOR members Jodi Magness, Shelley Wachsmann, Andrea Berlin, James Strange, Douglas Edwards, and Eric Meyers.

Website update, December 2001

A new page has been added to the Membership section of our web site, listing news and providing minutes from past Membership Meetings and Board of Trustees Meetings. ASOR's Bylaws and lists of recipients of ASOR Honors and Awards are also available as links from this page. The page is accessible via clicking the Membership button on our home page (www.asor.org) and then selecting "Member News" or can be accessed directly by going to: www.asor.org/membgen.htm

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special occasions. Contracts ASOR makes with hotel properties typically involve creative and fascinating interlacing patterns of all these threads. What affects one strand affects them all. To keep a handle on room rates, we extend the food-function budget. To maintain a grip on registration fees, we try to cut corners on equipment costs. To help us control the expenses of weaving this tapestry is no small challenge. My hat's off to the ASOR office and Julene Miller of Academy Travel for their diligence in finding the very best venues of the highest quality for the Annual Meetings for the lowest costs. But we need everyone's help. This will especially be true when we meet in Toronto and Atlanta, both locations representing much more expensive venues than Denver for conferences.

Here are ways we can all contribute:

- Include a food function among the activities your group or institution might consider: a luncheon, a reception (of whatever size), a business breakfast. Using the hotel for ASOR-related food functions will help cover the large catering line item we need in order to keep room costs reasonable.
- Stay as many nights as possible at the ASOR hotel. This contributes to the number of room nights we negotiate with hotels as part of overall cost-cutting efforts.
- Tell everyone we know to attend and participate in ASOR's Annual Meeting.

OUTREACH EDUCATION COMMITTEE (Carolyn Rivers, chair)

Communicating Archaeology to the Public

In addition to sponsoring and organizing the *Public Lecture Session* on Friday night (see above the note on the Jerusalem program), the Outreach Committee sponsored a luncheon session, featuring Carole Krucoff, head of education at the Oriental Institute Museum. She also participated in the teacher workshop.

Teacher Workshop

The University of Colorado Museum of Natural History in Boulder hosted our annual

event as one of its teacher workshops for the fall. Judith Cochran and Gloria London presided and presented. Eleven participants attended the workshop.

HONORS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (Harold Forshey, chair)

The Awards Committee has intensified efforts to broaden its base of nominations for awards. We have utilized the ASOR ListServe for reminders to the ASOR membership to submit nominations and continue to depend on all members for input on nominations. The award winners announced at the Members Meeting and feted at a reception are featured on page 3.

ASOR LECTURE SERIES COMMITTEE (Ann Killebrew, chair)

For some time several ASOR members have felt the need to shape and maintain a speakers bureau as an outreach avenue for ASOR. At their initiation, we have had a series of conversations with Hershel Shanks and Steve Feldman of the Biblical Archaeology Society, about their willingness to publicize a possible speakers bureau. Since then, a new committee has been formed to explore how best to establish, staff and maintain what could become a major contribution to ASOR's efforts to present archaeology to the public. Ann Killebrew has kindly accepted our invitation to chair a new CAMP committee and several ASOR members met in Boulder to launch the committee and lay out its plans and proposals.

RELATED ITEMS

ASOR Regional Affiliations

Several ASOR members who hold leadership positions in regional societies have met for the first time, and have elected Suzanne Richard to coordinate regional efforts of ASOR-related groups. Currently, there are six or seven regional conferences with ASOR connections. We hope to see an expanded role

for ASOR in the regional meetings of several organizations.

Added Annual Meeting Notes—2001

According to Chris Madell, in the Publications Office, the number of publishers displaying their wares at the Annual Meeting is up this year to more than thirty. This is good news and says something about the health of ASOR and its efforts to put scholars and related publications into close proximity with each other. A number of conference participants commented about how much they appreciated the book display in Boulder.

While the application process currently in place for the Annual Meeting appears to be extremely successful, we continue to look for ways to improve and streamline the process, making it more user friendly and efficient. We encourage members to submit recommendations as they work the system next time around.

Hotel venues for the next few years

- Toronto in 2002 is set to take place in the Marriott Eaton Centre Hotel.
- Atlanta in 2003 is set to take place in the Grand Hyatt, Buckhead
- San Antonio in 2004 will be explored soon.

To stay ahead of the game, we must address in the upcoming months the question: "Where do we go from here?" Not without its flash points, the topic of maintaining consonance with the time and location of the SBL annual meetings will need our collective consideration.

Our sincere thanks to the 100+ ASOR members who responded to the questionnaire assessing the 2001 Annual Meeting. It will now take some time to collate and interpret the data. We will try to report soon on this and on the outcomes of the Atlanta Strategic Initiatives Session held last September as the conversation related to the Annual Meeting.

Douglas Clark, Chair

*Committee on the Annual Meeting
and Program*

**American
Center of
Oriental
Research**

2000—2001

Fellows Reports

Salman H. Al-Ani

Betty S. Anderson

Benjamin J. Dolinka

Fred M. Donner

Elise A. Friedland

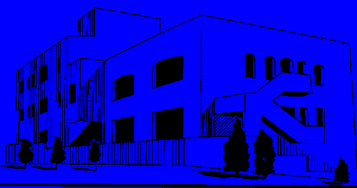
Susan Gelb

Jonathan D. Lawrence

Tori Rohl

Denise Schmandt-Besserat

Donald J. Zeigler



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**Arabic Prosody: An Acoustic
Syllable Based Analysis**

*Salman H. Al-Ani
(Indiana University)*

*Near and Middle East Research and Training
Program*

This research focused on two main goals. The first was to render a translation of a famous poem by the late Muhammad Mahdi al-Jawhri. Al-Jawhri, born in the city of Najaf, just south of Baghdad, is considered by many Arab critics to be the last major traditional poet of the 20th century. The poem was composed in honor of the late King Hussein of Jordan on the occasion of his birthday in 1992.

The second goal of the research was to make an acoustic prosodic analysis of the 34 verses of the poem. The uniqueness of the combination and the structure of the verses combined with the rhythmic patterns and rhyme are considered the main linguistic aspects for determining how poetry is different from the everyday speech of a language. The verses were digitized into wave forms, stored in a computer system, and analyzed by using "Soundscope," a computer speech analysis program. It should be emphasized that, contrary to the traditional Arabic prosody, the syllable as a phonological constituent is used as the basic unit in this analysis.

Syllables, especially in poetry, are organized in patterns. These patterns, which are not used randomly, are important in making up poetic feet and verses in a systematic manner. Normally the inherent phonological features of the intonation of Arabic poetry determine these patterns.

The syllable, as a central phonological component, plays a crucial role in the analysis of prosody. There are six syllable types in Arabic: CV, CVC, CVV, CVVC, CVCC, and CVVCC (C represents consonants, V represents short vowels, and VV long vowels). The first three syllable types, CV, CVC, and CVV, are the most frequently used in the phonological structure of Arabic and reflect the dynamic

nature of the composition of Arabic poetry.

The SoundScope program (on Macintosh platform) produces a visual display of the utterances of the verses of the poem. Several modes of analysis can be conducted allowing for the duration or time to be measured in milliseconds, frequency in Hertz, and intensity in decibels. The syllables of each verse were measured for duration, frequency, and intensity and the results were tabulated and compared. In the future, a variety of statistical analysis of the measurements will be conducted.

**The Jordanian National Movement
of the 1950s: Socio-Economic and
Political Influences**

*Betty S. Anderson
(Boston University)
USIA/CAORC Fellowship*

Until fairly recently, research on Jordan's political development has focused exclusively on the actions of the Hashemite state and dismissed the extensive socio-economic changes taking place just below the elite level of political discourse. By identifying Jordan's political structure as that of a "rentier" state, a complex network of relationships both within the country and with other Arab nations has been unnecessarily neglected. In many previous works on Jordan, the state appeared to function as an entity entirely distinct from domestic forces and the opposition, when mentioned, was typically identified as comprising only the disgruntled Palestinian refugees and a few rogue Jordanians. The fact that the state has always been able to function with little domestic input cannot be disputed, but the state has never been able to ignore all the demands generated by Jordan's changing socio-economic base.

My research has illustrated that expansion of the education system, increased urbanization, and diversification of the economy in the 1940s and 1950s created new social forces which, in turn, de-

manded policy-making power in Jordan. Alongside these socio-economic transformations, the extension of media outlets into every corner of the country spread the ideas that initiated a national debate about the very foundations of the Hashemite state. The political opposition, led by the new urban professional intelligentsia and the Jordanian National Movement, organized these new social forces to demand fundamental political changes. The state responded by, first, altering political direction in the 1950s, and, second, by opening up the economic and political structures to more classes in the 1950s and 1960s, as part of a larger movement of co-optation of the opposition.

Nabataean Aila from a Ceramic Perspective: Local and Intra-Regional Trade in Aqaba Ware During the First and Second Centuries AD

*Benjamin J. Dolinka
(University of Liverpool)
USIA/CAORC Fellowship*

The USIA/CAORC Fellowship was a continuation of the research I conducted under a previous ACOR fellowship during the autumn of 1998 (*ASOR Newsletter* 49/4 [Winter 1999] 19). The present research consisted of two elements: a continued investigation into the distribution of the commonware pottery (Aqaba Ware) produced at Nabataean Aila (Aqaba, Jordan); and incorporating this new data, plus information about the Nabataean phasing at Aila gathered during the 2000 field season of the Roman Aqaba Project, into a revised version of my recently completed M.A. Thesis (North Carolina State University, 1999) to prepare the manuscript for scholarly publication.

The Aqaba Ware distribution study employed a two-pronged strategy. First, I tried to determine whether the apparent “northern” distribution pattern for Aqaba Ware from newly examined sites matched that of the preliminary data collected in

1998—i.e., that Aqaba Ware represented only a very small percentage of each site’s overall ceramic assemblage and was limited only to Ailan jars. Second, I examined pottery from Nabataean sites in the Negev in order to determine if there was any Aqaba Ware present there and, if so, whether the distribution pattern was similar to that in the north. Out of the 11 new northern sites, 10 yielded Aqaba Ware, and the vessel forms were indeed limited to the Ailan jars. The northernmost limit appears to have been Jerash (I. Kehrberg: pers. comm.), where one lonely piece was found. An abundance of Aqaba Ware was found at Nabataean sites in the Negev. Of the 19 ceramic assemblages examined, 16 yielded Aqaba Ware. All of the sites, with the exception of Masada, were situated along major Nabataean trade routes which passed through the region, a similar phenomenon noted for the northern distribution. The main difference for the Negev distribution was that in addition to the Ailan jars, of which there were numerous examples, there were also jugs, bowls, cups and flasks present at many of the sites. In addition, at sites north of the Nabataean realm in modern Israel (e.g., Qumran, En Gedi), there was no Aqaba Ware attested. Also noteworthy is the presence of an Aqaba Ware jar from a mid-2nd century context at Myos Hormos (Quseir al-Qadim) on the Egyptian Red Sea coast (R. Tomber: pers. comm.), which represents the southernmost distribution for Aqaba Ware discerned in the present study.

The manuscript preparation conducted under this fellowship has been highly successful. Information from the 2000 field season of the Roman Aqaba Project has greatly clarified the phasing for Nabataean Aila. The sheer amount of data provided by the distribution study has warranted separating that information into a chapter of its own. The publisher has agreed in principle to publish the completed manuscript for this research as a volume in the *B.A.R. International Series*. The dissemination of this information is of utmost importance, not only because it is the first study of its kind dealing with a known and easily recognizable type of

Nabataean commonware pottery, but also because until this present study, the ceramic record of southern Nabataea (i.e., south of Petra) has been essentially overlooked.

Muhammad and the Believers: at the Beginnings of Islam

*Fred M. Donner
(Oriental Institute of the Univ. of Chicago)
National Endowment for the Humanities
Fellowship*

From January 12–June 12 I worked at ACOR in Amman under a four-month ACOR/NEH Fellowship. My main goal while at ACOR was to draft the bulk of a book to be called *Muhammad and the Believers: at the Beginnings of Islam*. This book will be aimed at a non-specialist readership—college undergraduates beginning the study of Islamic history, and that elusive figure, the “enlightened general reader.” My intent is to provide something that is neither locked into the traditional paradigm about Islam’s origins—as most of the generalist literature so far has been—but that avoids what I see as the excesses and inaccessibility of virtually all of the recent revisionist interpretations of early Islam. But, while my book will be aimed at a general readership, I hope that the synthesis I will advance in it will also be stimulating to other specialists in the field of early Islamic history.

During the term of my grant, I was able to complete the rough draft of chapter 2, “Muhammad and the Early Believers,” chapter 3, “Early Expansion of the Community of Believers,” chapter 4, “The Struggle for Leadership, 656-692,” and chapter 5, “The Emergence of Islam.” (Chapter 1, which will deal with the pre-Islamic Near Eastern background/context for the appearance of Islam, will be drafted later.) These drafts are still rough and will need further revision, but I am delighted that in four months I was able to rough out four full chapters

Besides my main project, I also engaged in a number of other activities and had a

number of subsidiary objectives. These included using spoken Arabic daily, which I was able to do; networking with Jordanian colleagues; getting to know the rapidly-developing city of Amman; and visiting many historical sites in Jordan that I had not seen in years or, in many cases, at all, particularly those relating to the Byzantine and early Islamic period. Most rewarding was the chance to get to interact with Jordanian colleagues. I visited colleagues at the University of Jordan's fine History department regularly, and also was asked to lecture at the Institute of Archaeology at Yarmouk University in Irbid, where I spoke on "Orientalists' Assumptions regarding the Origins of Islam as an Historical Phenomenon." I also had the good fortune to see Dr. Ghazi Bisheh, former Director of Antiquities, on a number of occasions, when he kindly showed me around several of the archaeological sites he knows so well. On the personal front, I was able to take some time off to engage in birdwatching, which gave me a much better sense of Jordan's and the Near East's avifauna and its natural environments.

Roman Marble Sculptures from the East Baths at Gerasa: Origins, Import, and Meaning

Elise A. Friedland

(Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida)

USIA/CAORC

In 1984, five marble sculptures and nine fragments were uncovered during rescue excavations in the North Hall of the monumental, third-century East Baths at Gerasa. This project focused on identifying the architectural context of the pieces, reconstructing the sculptural program, and interpreting the pieces within the context of the urban milieu of Roman Gerasa, the import of Roman marble statuary to the Near East, and the cultural interaction between the local peoples of the Semitic East and their Roman rulers.

The unexcavated East Baths at Gerasa are, next to the recently-published West Baths from Beth Shean/Scythopolis, one

of the largest imperial bath complexes discovered to date in the Roman Near East. The North Hall seems to have functioned as a basilica *thermarum* due to its lack of bathing installations, rectangular shape, encircling colonnade, and proximity to and alignment with the main axis of the central bathing block. The extensive evidence for an elaborate sculptural program, including the five life-size or slightly larger marble sculptures and sixteen statue bases (eight with inscriptions), suggests that the North Hall was appointed on a lavish, public scale sometime between the middle of the 2nd and the early 3rd centuries AD.

Particularly lavish was the import of marble to Gerasa, since there is no native source of marble in the Roman Near East and the province is considerably inland from the closest port of the Decapolis, Caesarea Maritima. According to isotopic analyses, the North Hall sculptures are carved in marble quarried both on Thasos and in various locations in Asia Minor. Technical features suggest that at least one of the Gerasa sculptures was carved in the Classical workshops of Asia Minor, though one piece preserves an inscription of an "Alexandrian" sculptor. In the Roman Near East, such evidence for regional marble sculptors, trained in the Graeco-Roman tradition, is rare. The Graeco-Roman subjects of the sculptures (a satyr, an Apollo or Dionysos, an Apollo or Muse, and two togate men who may have represented either imperial or private portraits) are found in non-bathing rooms used for socializing in imperial bath complexes throughout the western empire. The inscriptions on the statue bases show that the sculptural program was dedicated largely by the city of Gerasa itself, but in some cases by local elites. The only two honorees mentioned are a governor and the emperor Caracalla. Thus, the sculptural program's imported material, Graeco-Roman style and subject matter, imperial honorees, but local patrons testify to the degree to which the eastern province of Arabia was connected to other provinces of the Roman empire such as Greece and Asia Minor and to the aspirations of local Gerasane elites to participate in or

emulate mainstream, Graeco-Roman, urban culture.

Architecture and Romanization: Hadrian's Visit to the Provincia Arabia

Susan Gelb

(University of Texas at Austin)

Samuel H. Kress Fellow

The goal of my dissertation research begun during my tenure as a Kress fellow at ACOR has been to study the architecture associated with the emperor Hadrian's visit to Arabia in AD 129–130 to analyze the effects of an imperial visit as well as to study subsequent architectural development in the second century AD. So far, I have determined that the monuments erected and dedicated in honor of this visit to *Provincia Arabia* consist of a combination of local architectural forms with Roman elements, creating a new hybrid form of architecture, as seen on the Khasneh in Petra and the small temple to Ba'alshamin at Palmyra. Monumental architecture credited to Hadrian's visit combines the use of the Syrian niche, broken pediments, and other Oriental motifs with Corinthian column capitals, elaborate architectural moldings, statuary, and decorative reliefs. Comparisons between these monuments in Arabia and others attributed to the reign of Hadrian in the eastern part of the empire create new typological sequences for the dating and understanding of some of Jordan's more extraordinary monuments.

In addition to preserving local architectural customs, Hadrian also respected indigenous religious beliefs by commemorating traditional deities with the monuments associated with his benefactions. Previous scholars have believed that after the annexation in AD 106, Nabataean traditions vanished. The architecture created for Hadrian's visit attests that the newly annexed cities maintained their ties to the east both architecturally and religiously while employing new Roman architectural concepts. Hadrian's program of creating or recarving monuments might

have been his way of reassuring the Nabataean citizens of the future of their own traditions after their annexation to the Roman Empire.

The results of my research have indicated that in contrast to this conscientious respect towards local customs, the architecture that developed in the cities of Arabia after Hadrian's visit displays more overt Roman aspects. The types of monuments that were erected after the middle of the second century, such as arched gateways, Corinthian colonnaded streets, and the Roman forum indicate a growing tendency towards creating typically Roman monuments imitating those seen in Rome herself. This trend was not instituted by Roman rule, but instead the local aristocracy attempted to curry favor with the new imported ruling class by creating these monuments. Thus, I theorize that the "Romanization" of architecture as seen in Gerasa, Gadara, and Palmyra (for example) came from local initiatives, a "trickle-up" model of architectural development.

My doctoral research seeks to shed new light on Hadrian's enigmatic journey and the architectural development of Arabia under Roman rule. My results have shown thus far that shortly after annexation local traditions are still potent, and are encouraged under Trajan and Hadrian, challenging former scholarly studies of Roman Arabia. The impetus to develop into more Romanized cities comes from local and/or individual enterprises in an effort to enhance their social standing with the Roman magistrates. Furthermore, my study will also illuminate more information about the emperor himself. Hadrian's imperial tour and benefactions highlight his admiration of cultural difference and empathy towards local traditions.

Living Water? Investigating the Development of Jewish Ritual Bathing and Christian Baptism

Jonathan D. Lawrence
(University of Notre Dame)
USIA/CAORC Fellowship

During the third to fifth centuries CE, some early Christian baptismal fonts resemble Jewish *miqva'ot*, or ritual baths, both in rectangular shape and construction as stepped and plastered installations built into the ground. In the sixth century CE, the practices diverge and these similarities disappear. To a certain extent, this relation can be explained by the origins of Christianity within Judaism. However, the persistence of this similarity is surprising since the two communities quickly grew apart.

My project has two goals which grow out of these observations. First, I will examine the chronology and geographical distribution of the structures used for Christian baptism and Jewish ritual bathing to determine the extent of their similarity. Second, I plan to use these data to illuminate Jewish-Christian relations during this time period, seeking to determine the causes for the divergence between the two practices in the sixth century CE. My dissertation will concentrate on the textual basis for ritual bathing, but I hope to continue this research following graduation.

As I am still in the early phases of my research, I will focus my remarks on the first goal. The main distinctions between different kinds of *miqva'ot* relate to the presence (or absence) of a separate unstepped reservoir attached to the stepped *miqveh*, and the presence of a divided steps or a second entrance to allow users to exit without walking on the same steps with which they entered. Although most *miqva'ot* are dated to the time before the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in 70 CE, the few texts from this time which discuss ritual immersion do not mention the use of any specific structures. In contrast, there are many fewer *miqva'ot* from the Rabbinic periods, but there are several texts which explicitly discuss details of the construction and use of *miqva'ot*.

Baptismal fonts, on the other hand, appear in a variety of different forms, differing in shape, size, and position above or below the ground. The earliest known baptismal font, found at Dura Europas, is a rectangular structure dated to the mid-third

century CE. Over the next several centuries, other shapes were introduced: circular, octagonal, hexagonal, cross-shaped, and quadrilobed.

Several issues still need to be examined: the relation of specific styles to economic status, the development of ritual immersion as part of religious initiation, the development of infant baptism, and the precise nature of *miqva'ot* and baptismal fonts from Jordan.

An initial examination of the distribution of early *miqva'ot* and baptismal fonts suggests that rectangular fonts persisted longest in areas of strong Jewish influence, while they were replaced by fonts imitating Greco-Roman baths, burials, and even some built in pagan temples in areas where Greco-Roman influences were stronger. The question that remains then is why did the rectangular form disappear from Jewish areas in the sixth century. Perhaps the Christian community was trying to distinguish itself from the practices of the Jewish community, but that remains to be seen.

The Historical Structural Development of Jordanian Contract Law

Tori Rohl
(University of Freiburg Law School, Germany)
Near and Middle East Research and Training
Program Fellowship

Max Rheinstein, one of the great comparative legal scholars of the 20th century described studying another legal system in his book *Einführung in die Rechtsvergleichung* (Introduction to Comparative Law). When one studies the sciences or economics, there is only one system to comprehend. Rheinstein equated learning about another legal system with learning a foreign language of another language family or learning about another religion. He dealt with both continental European Civil Law and the Anglo-American system of law. 'Abd al-Razzaq Ahmad Al-Sanhuri, the most prominent Arab jurist of the 20th century, likened learning law to learning the Arab language. Al-Sanhuri dealt with Islamic Law and the law of continental

Civil Law systems.

In order to learn the fundamentals of another legal system, one must have training in the requisite foreign language of the target country, due to the fact that law is language based. If translations of codified legal texts are available, these are usually not completely accurate. It is imperative that one work with original legal texts. Furthermore, the precise content of legal terms of one system does not necessarily translate into those of another. Legal systems differ greatly, and therefore one must begin to learn about each system from the foundation upward, because each has its own distinct structure, methodology and particularities. A background in the culture and history of a given country or region is important.

Most legal systems of the Middle East are hybrid. These hybrid legal systems contain, for example, elements of religious law, civil law and/or Anglo law. Specific areas of law, such as contract law in Jordan, are in themselves hybrid. Understanding such systems requires not only foreign language abilities and a background in area studies, but also formal education in a Civil Law system and Islamic Law.

The goals of my American Center of Oriental Research project are twofold. The primary purpose of my research is to understand the historical structural development of the Jordanian Civil Code of 1976 and of Jordanian contract law in particular. The secondary long-term goal is to begin constructing a comparative legal methodology, something that does not yet exist.

To achieve the primary goal, it is necessary to analyze the structure of Classical Islamic Law, the codification of the Ottoman Majalla, the effects of its codification and finally the development of the Jordanian Civil Code in a regional Meshraq context. Classical and contemporary law are often dealt with in scholarship. The transition from a religious legal system to a hybrid legal system of a sovereign state is of great relevance. The Ottoman Majalla served as the transition between these two systems.

Between 1867 and 1877 during the

Ottoman Tanzimat, the Majallat Al-Ahkam Al-'Adliyya (Majalla), a codification of Hanifi fiqh, came into force in the empire. Egypt and the Sudan adhered to a similar code titled the Murshid al-Hayran. While the Majalla is European in form with its 16 books and 1851 articles, it is predominantly Islamic in organization and content. The areas of civil law in the Majalla range from the various contract forms to arbitration. Some French influences are to be found, owing to the fact that it was necessary to employ additional legal mechanisms to ease commerce with Europe. With these external influences in place, one can already speak of a hybrid code.

The effects of codification extend to both the state and the individual. For the state, the code obviously led to more centralization and uniform law. The Majalla became qanun, thus further empowering the state as opposed to the 'ulema. However, while weakening the power of the 'ulema through codification, Islamic Law in the various civil areas was put into stone. More legal uniformity undoubtedly occurred, due to the fact that qanun applies to Muslims and non-Muslims alike, and to Muslims equally regardless of an individual's madhab.

This code surely contributed to Ottoman administrative ease, given that the Majalla was written in Ottoman Turkish. The official Majalla remained law in areas of the former empire long after the dissolution of the empire. Turkey adopted the Swiss civil code in 1926.

Upon the independence of states in the Arab world new civil codes entered into force. As a law student in Cairo and then in Lyon, Al-Sanhuri became familiar with the law of the mixed courts in Egypt and continental European Civil Law. When writing civil codes for many of the sovereign states in the Arab world, Al-Sanhuri incorporated law from the Classical Islamic system, the Majalla and from various continental civil codes. The organization of these codes more closely resembles those of the continental European Civil Law countries. In analyzing the civil codes one notices that the codes written in the late 1940s, for

example, those of Egypt and Syria are heavier in French influence. The latter codes of Iraq and Jordan incorporate more Islamic terminology. In various Meshraq civil codes, if a legal inquiry cannot be answered, various instruments of Islamic legal interpretation are to be resorted to. In addition, Al-Sanhuri authored the 12 volume civil code commentary used throughout the Arab world today. Commentaries are particular to a Civil Law system.

Through acquiring an understanding of the historical development of the Jordanian Civil Code of 1976 and Jordanian contract law, it is now possible to analyze the substantive law of the Code. In addition, Al-Sanhuri employed comparative methods in writing civil codes of the Meshraq countries. In my continued research I will analyze the civil codes, determining the origins of law and hopefully compile a comparative law methodology.

Symbols at 'Ain Ghazal: Skulls - Plain, Painted and Plastered

*Denise Schmandt-Besserat
(University of Texas at Austin)
USIA/CAORC Senior Fellowship*

During my stay at ACOR I completed the collection of data on plastered skulls started during my previous ACOR fellowship. In 1997, I visited Jericho E 22 stored at the Rockefeller Museum, Jerusalem; the Beisamoun, Kfar HaHoresh and Nahal Oren specimens at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem and the Tell Ramad skulls in the Damascus Museum, Syria. In 2001, I studied first hand the so-called Skull C and Skull 88-1 from 'Ain Ghazal stored at the Museum of Jordanian Heritage at the University of Yarmouk in Irbid. I worked on the three plaster masks from 'Ain Ghazal and four skulls from Jericho, kept at the Jordan Archaeological Museum, Amman. I was given special permissions from the Department of Antiquity to study and photograph the Jericho skulls. I had planned to visit the plastered skull of Kosk

Hoyuk, stored at the Nigde Museum, Turkey, but unfortunately the Turkish authorities did not grant me permission to view the object.

After completing the data collection on skulls, I continued to visit Irbid regularly to study the remains of plastered floors from 'Ain Ghazal, which will be my next focus.

I have completed the analyses of:

- The spectacular 'Ain Ghazal Plastered Skull 88-1
- The 'Ain Ghazal assemblage of 14 treated skulls, including 5 plain specimens hoarded in caches, 3 painted and 6 plastered specimens.
- The five Near Eastern plastered skulls assemblages featuring a total of 38 skulls.
- The textual and pictorial evidence for decapitation in the early historical Near East

One merit of the study is to bring together a full documentation and analysis of entire Neolithic Near Eastern collection of plastered skulls. The most significant results can be summarized as follows:

The complete assemblage of modeled skulls amounts to some 44 distributed among six sites: 'Ain Ghazal in Jordan, Jericho in Palestine, Kfar HaHoresh and Beisamoun in Galilee, Tell Ramad in Syria and Kosk Hoyuk in central Turkey. The earliest evidence for the custom of plastering skulls comes from 'Ain Ghazal, where three specimens may date as early as ca. 7100 BC. The tradition lasted at 'Ain Ghazal during the five centuries of the MPPNB period (7100–6600 BC) but extended elsewhere over another 1000 years: Kfar HaHoresh 7000–6500 BC, Tell Ramad 6200–6000 BC, Beisamoun 6100–6000 BC, Jericho 6250–5850 BC and Kosk Hoyuk 5500 BC.

The treatment of the modeled skulls varied according to the sites. They were most often buried but at Beisamoun and Kosk Hoyuk they were exposed in a building and outside at Tell Ramad. Several skulls were interred incomplete suggesting that they also may have been exhibited before. At Jericho the skulls were thrown pell-mell in a ditch, but those of Beisamoun and Kfar HaHoresh seemed oriented towards east, the direction of the

rising sun. Funerary offerings of animals, flint tools, and figurines were perhaps deposited at Kfar HaHoresh, Beisamoun and Tell Ramad.

It is a myth that the modeled skulls were arranged in groups of three or multiple sets of three. The numbers of specimens in a cache are as follows: an unspecified “dozen” (Tell Ramad), 8 (Tell Ramad), 7 (Jericho), 4 ('Ain Ghazal), 3 ('Ain Ghazal, Tell Ramad), 2 (Jericho, Beisamoun), 1 ('Ain Ghazal 88-1, Jericho E 22, Kfar HaHoresh and Kosk Hoyuk). The caches also varied in composition, showing no visible pattern of age or sex preference for the individuals who received the treatment. The groups brought together old and young adults as well as a child about 13–14 years old. Males and females were also mixed. Twelve of the identified skulls—the majority—were those of women. Ten were males.

The forty-four modeled skulls recreated facial features with lime plaster, but they did so using many different styles. As a rule, the mandible and all teeth were removed, but there are exceptions. The surface covered with plaster varied. At 'Ain Ghazal, Jericho and Kosk Hoyuk it was restricted to the visage. At Beisamoun it extended on the top and side of the cranium while the whole head was treated at Kfar HaHoresh and even the neck at Tell Ramad. Most skulls had a large flat base that assured a position tilted at the back. The removal of both mandible and dentition squeezed the facial features on the upper 2/3 of the cranium, giving the face a chubby look. The eyes were mostly open but examples at 'Ain Ghazal, Jericho, Kfar HaHoresh had them closed. The cornea or iris was modeled in plaster at 'Ain Ghazal, Beisamoun and Tell Ramad, inlaid with shells at Jericho and with black stone in Kosk Hoyuk. Bitumen was used to draw the pupil on Jericho E22 and to seal the eyelids of the three faces and Skull D of 'Ain Ghazal.

It seems significant that each cache has unique specific characteristics shared by all the skulls included. For instance, the seven Jericho skulls portrayed the eyes with shells, but E 22 from another area of the site did not. The group of Tell Ramad I

had a red spot on the forehead, as opposed to those of the level II cache that were red all over. In the cache of three faces of 'Ain Ghazal all were separated from the bone structure, but no other skull at the site was. This points out the significant fact that the skulls were done as a series possibly by a same hand.

The following traits stand out as most characteristic of the modeled skulls at 'Ain Ghazal and elsewhere.

- 1) The choice of plaster to model the features of the dead
- 2) The removal of the mandible
- 3) The extraction of the dentition
- 4) Skulls were buried incomplete
- 5) Skulls were buried with other human remains
- 6) The homogeneity of style within each cache
- 7) The skulls presented the face tilted backwards
- 8) There is no age or sex pattern for plastering

In the perspective of the five modeled skull assemblages, Ain Ghazal stand as the point of departure of a millennium long Levantine tradition of plastering severed heads. Skull 88-1 exhibits an outstanding quality of craftsmanship with unusually harmonious features and an enigmatic dreamy expression.

I depart from the traditional interpretation of the skulls as representation of ancestors founded on ethnographic parallels with 19th century New Guinea. Instead, I show that the ancient Near Eastern iconographic and textual evidence picture decapitation as an abomination reserved to strangers and monsters. I argue that in the Ancient Near East skulls were viewed as holding apotropaic powers and served as link to the otherworld.

Changing Geographies of the Christian Population in Amman, Jordan

Donald J. Zeigler

*(Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA)
USIA/CAORC Post Doctoral Fellowship*

Models of the traditional Middle Eastern city suggest that residen-

tial patterns are determined by factors such as ethnic and religious affinities, with different cultural groups having their own “quarters.” These models have not yet caught up with changes that are taking place in the region’s urban geography. As cities grow and expand, new neighborhoods are developing on urban peripheries. In these new neighborhoods, residential patterns seem to be defined by economic status rather than cultural background. In the case of Amman, Jordan, the Christian populations used to be concentrated in quarters such as Ashrafiyah, where the landscape was dominated by their churches and associated social institutions. Today, Amman’s Christians, including their churches and schools, are increasingly dispersed. Young Christian families are choosing to abandon the old neighborhoods and settle in the new, less-crowded suburban sector which stretches toward the west, a sector called West Amman. It has neighborhoods of its own, but they tend to be defined by economic status and the upwardly mobile aspirations of their residents, whether Christian or Muslim. These neighborhoods are more economically homogeneous (upper income) and more culturally heterogeneous (Muslim and Christian), quite in contrast to the “quarters” of the traditional Middle Eastern city, which were more culturally homogeneous and more economically heterogeneous. Both push and pull factors are at work in this spatial sifting-and-sorting, but the essential principle stoking the growth of West Amman seems to be the same for both Christian and Muslim families: if you can afford an apartment or land there, and if you can afford a car, West Amman is the destination of preference. The result is new neighborhoods united in their socio-economic status, lifestyles, goals and aspirations, and old neighborhoods that are filtering down to lower-income groups in the city. This research challenges us to revise our traditional models of the Middle Eastern city and to compare Amman with those cities on which the traditional model was built: Cairo, Damascus, and Aleppo, all of which have sizable Christian populations.



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February 14, 2002

3rd Annual Mtg of the Middle Bronze Age Study Group. **University of Haifa.** Contact the : Ezra Marcus: ezra@research.haifa.ac.il Aren Maeir: maeir@h2.hum.huji.ac.il David Ilan

March 8–10, 2002

The 2002 meeting of the **Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion (SECSOR)** will be held in Atlanta, GA at the Marriott Century Center. Contact: Herbert Burhenn, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Dept 2753, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, 615 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37403-2598.

March 11–16, 2002

Eurasian Steppes in Prehistory and Middle Ages. The conference will be held in Saint Petersburg at the Institute of the History of Material Culture Russian Academy of Science (Dvortsovaya naberezhnaya, 18) and at the State Hermitage. Contact: M. N. Pshenitsyna, Secretary, Institute of the History of Material Culture,, Dvortsovaya naberezhnaya, 18, Saint-Petersburg, 191186, Russia. E-mail: admin@archo.ru. tel.: +7 (812) 312-14-84; fax: +7 (812) 311-62-71.

March 11–13, 2002

Nimrud Conference. Department of the Ancient Near East, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG Contact: ancientneareast@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk fax: +44 (0) 7323 8489

March 20–24, 2002

Society for American Archaeology. The SAA 67th Annual Meeting will take place at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver, Colorado. Contact: email: meetings@saa.org. web: www.saa.org.

March 22–25, 2002

American Oriental Society Annual Meeting. J.W. Marriott, Houston, TX. Contact: www.umich.edu/~aos/.

April 5–6, 2002

Talking Texts: Speaker and Addressee in the Ancient World. Rutgers University. Abstract deadline: September 30, 2001. Contact: Classics Graduate Student Association, c/o Department of Classics, Rutgers University, 131 George Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Web: classics.rutgers.edu/grad_conference.html

April 15–19, 2002

The Third International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (3 ICAANE). Sponsored by Université de Paris 1-Panthon Sorbonne, the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (UMR 7041) and the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Études (IVe section). Purpose: To promote cooperation and information exchange between archaeologists working in the ancient Near East, from the eastern Mediterranean to Iran and from Anatolia to Arabia, and from prehistoric times to Alexander the Great. Contact: Victoria de Caste, Secretariat, web: www.3icaane.univ-paris1.fr; email: 3icaane@mae.u-paris10.fr.

May 29–June 1, 2002

The Mediterranean Studies Associations 5th annual International Congress, "**Iberia and the Mediterranean,**" will be held at the Universidad de Granada in Granada, Spain. Papers and sessions on all subjects relating to the Mediterranean region and Mediterranean cultures around the Mediterranean. Contact: msa@umassd.edu URL:

www.mediterraneanstudies.org Announcement ID: 129338. http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/announce/show.cgi?ID=1

July 1–4, 2002

48e Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale - International Congress of Assyriology and Near Eastern Archaeology. Theme: Ethnicity in Ancient Mesopotamia. Sponsored by Leiden University, Department of Assyriology and Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten.

September 1–6, 2002

History of Medicine. Istanbul, Turkey. Contact: Prof. Dr. Nil SARI, Email: nilsa@turk.net or OR nilasari@istanbul.edu.tr.

December 14–16, 2002

1st International Conference on Late Roman Coarse Wares, Cooking Wares and Amphorae in the Mediterranean: Archaeology and Archaeometry. University of Barcelona. Contact: www.ub.cs/preist/noticies.htm. Tel. +34-93 440 92 00 ext. 3192. Fax: +31-93 449 85 10. Email: eraub@trivium.gh.ub.es

April 26–28, 2002

2nd MIT Conference on Technology, Archaeology, and the Deep Sea. Deadline for abstracts: November 1, 2001. Contact: web.mit.edu/sts/deeparch.

March 2003

Ancient Textiles, Production, Craft and Society. Copenhagen, Denmark/Lund, Sweden. Themes: Textiles in Practice—techniques, technologies and tools; other cross-disciplinary studies including scientific analyses; experimental archaeology and practical demonstrations; Textiles in Society—craftsmen and craftsmanship; production and its role in society; written evidence and economic factors. Contact: Eva Andersson, Dept. of Archaeology, Sandg., Lund, Sweden eva.andersson@ark.lu.se or Carole Gillis, Dept of Classical Studies, Solveg. 2, S-223 62 Lund, Sweden carole.gillis@klass.lu.se .

April 3–6, 2003

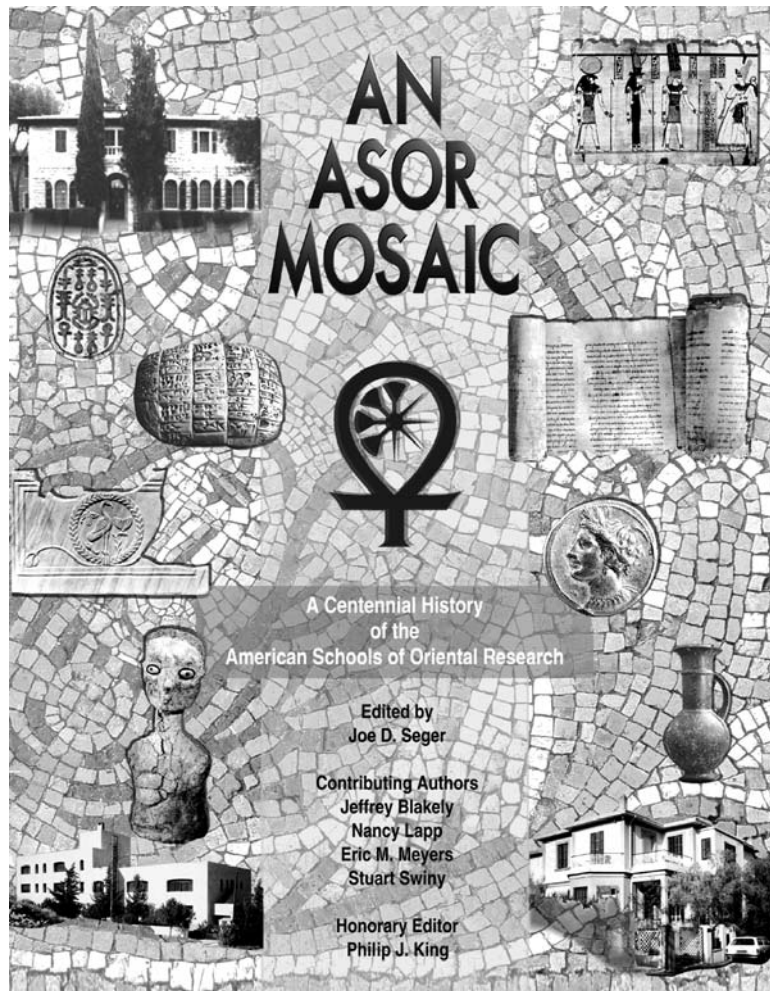
Egypt and Cyprus in Antiquity. Nicosia, Cyprus. Sponsored by the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI), and the Archaeological Research Unit (ARU) of the Department of History and Archaeology of the University of Cyprus. Contact: Mrs. Vassiliki Demetriou; email: vasiliki@ucy.ac.cy; tel. (357-2) 674658/674702; fax. (357-2) 674101. Archaeological Research Unit (ARU), University of Cyprus, P.O.Box 20537, CY-1678 Nicosia, Cyprus.

August 23-26, 2003

Common Ground. Archaeology, Art, Science, and Humanities. The XVI International Congress of Classical Archaeology of the Associazione Internazionale di Archeologia Classica (AIAC), hosted by the Ancient Art Department of the Harvard University Art Museums, Cambridge, MA. The organizers are interested in new discoveries and new approaches, and invite abstracts from scholars in a variety of disciplines who are working together in such areas as conservation, site preservation, computer technology, historiography, and museum studies. Abstracts are due November, 2002. Contact: Amy Brauer, e-mail: AIAC2003@fas.harvard.edu. Tel: 617-495-3393 32 Quincy Street Cambridge, MA 02138. Fax: 617-495-5506.

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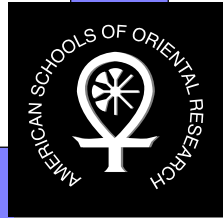
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