



ASOR

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ASOR 2008 ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Jennie Ebeling & Yorke Rowan,
Co-Chairs of Program Committee

The word in the spacious lobby of the Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel November 19-22 was that ASOR's 2008 Annual Meeting was a big success; overheard were comments like "excellent," "terrific," "great" and "cold" (we can't accept responsibility for that last statement, although we quite agree). With over 740 registered participants, it was ASOR's most heavily-attended meeting ever, and the densely-packed schedule of academic sessions and special events (not to mention the endless business meetings) kept many busy from 7 am to the late evening. This year we had 55 academic sessions, up five from last year, covering a broad range of topics from ACOR at 40 to The World of Women: Gender and Archaeology. Nearly all of the sessions, even those that went into Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, were very well-attended, as were the events held at

other venues in Boston. We would like to briefly summarize the highlights of the 2008 ASOR Annual Meeting for those who could not make it to Boston this year.

The Annual Meeting kicked off Wednesday night with a plenary session introduced by co-Vice Presidents for Programs, Michael Homan and Morag Kersel. After an introduction by Sarah Kansa, who gave a presentation on The Great Temple Project and Open Context, ASOR President Tim Harrison introduced the plenary speaker, Professor Emerita of Old World Archaeology, Art and Anthropology at Brown University, Martha Joukowsky. Those who attended her address, entitled "From Censure to Acceptance: Women Archaeologists in Near Eastern Archaeology," were treated to an introduction to some of the pioneering female archaeologists working in the Near East in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as an appreciation of some of the women at the forefront of current fieldwork in the region. Thanks to Martha, a longtime ASOR member

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"With over 740 registered participants, it was ASOR's most heavily-attended meeting ever..."

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was a real pleasure to see and visit with many of you this past month at our annual meetings in Boston. I came away with a strong sense of enthusiasm and excitement about the meetings themselves, and about the general state of our organization and the direction in which it is headed. I believe this positive spirit stems in large part from our decision last year to retain administrative oversight and management of our annual meetings. That decision-making process, and the consensus that guided it, has helped to restore confidence in our ability to function and work together as an organization, and it has also instilled a sense of identity.

The success of the Boston meetings was also due to the hard work of many individuals, in particular the Program Committee and our administrative staff. I wish especially to thank Jennie Ebeling and Yorke Rowan, who have completed their term as Co-Chairs of the Program Committee, for their superb handling of the annual meeting program during their tenure. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Elise Friedland and Andrew Smith, the new Co-Chairs of the Program Committee. I am confident the quality and range of the papers and sessions in the annual meeting program will continue to grow under their leadership.

I wish also to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of our administrative staff, in particular Kelley Bazydlo, who joined our staff as Director of Meetings and Events just this fall, but also Andy Vaughn, Selma Omerefen-dic, Sara Deon, our graduate student assistants Alexandra Ratzlaff, Brian Jenkin, Sophie Mpunzwana and Kyle Tipping, and student assistants Shari Rabin, Herson Castillo and Yi Yang, all of whom contributed toward making the meetings the success that they were. Organizing and managing an event on the scale our annual meetings have become is no small feat, and the success of the Boston meetings is a testament

to the capability and hard work of our administrative staff.

I am also pleased to announce the election of Øystein LaBianca as Vice President of the Committee for Archaeological Research and Policy. Sten succeeds Ann Killebrew, who stepped down so that she could devote her energies and time to her new role as editor of *Near Eastern Archaeology*. Over the past year, under her leadership, CAP conducted a successful review of the criteria for ASOR project affiliation. CAP is now better poised to pursue its mandate as the research and policy arm of ASOR, and I anticipate the realization of significant new initiatives under Sten's leadership in the years ahead.

In closing, I wish to comment briefly about ASOR's current financial outlook. Given the turmoil in the financial markets of recent months, and the deteriorating impact this has had economically, questions about the state of ASOR's finances, understandably, were a recurring concern for many members at the meetings. While the downturn in the economy does mean that we face uncertain times ahead, let me emphasize that ASOR will continue to operate within its fiscal means, and I am confident that we will be able to do so successfully. However, this will require careful and prudent management of our resources, and it may require that we scale back some programs, at least temporarily. To help us weather these turbulent times, and continue pursuit of our core mission as an organization, it will be important that our membership continue to provide financial and moral support. Consequently, I would encourage every member to consider contributing to our Annual Fund. Doing so will be one tangible way to help ensure we are able to continue offering the programs and services that we do.

I thank each of you for your contributions to the success of our meetings in Boston, and to ASOR. ❁



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and past-Vice President as well as a distinguished field archaeologist, for her interesting observations on a subject long overlooked in our field. The plenary session was followed by a reception that gave attendees the opportunity to socialize with friends and colleagues and survey the books on display in the hall outside the meeting rooms.

Thursday was a very full day, with 20 academic sessions that ran from 8:30 to 6:15. Among the highly-attended talks of the day was Garth Gilmour's presentation of a sherd possibly depicting Asherah and Yahweh unearthed by Macalister and Duncan during their excavations in Jerusalem in the 1920s, and Yossi Garfinkel and Saar Ganor's discussion of recent excavations at Khirbet Qeiyafa, which produced what may be the earliest Hebrew inscription. One could even learn during the lunch break, as Order and Conflict: Roundtables on the Agency Role of Empires in the Levant was in session during this time as well as the Junior Scholar Workshop and Luncheon, which brought together Editor of BASOR, James Weinstein, and Publisher of Eisenbrauns, Jim Eisenbraun, to discuss the practicalities of publishing. After the last session ended at 6:15, many braved the freezing cold in taxis and on the "T" to get across town to Harvard Divinity School for the presentation of a Festschrift to Larry Stager. Those who made it into the packed room in Andover Hall for the presentation heard words of appreciation for Larry's important contributions, and the large crowds that continued to the near-



Prof. Martha Joukowsky delivers the plenary address

by Semitic Museum enjoyed refreshments, a slideshow of Larry in the field through the years, and a chance to see the fantastic four-room house exhibit on the first floor. ASOR thanks the Semitic Museum, Harvard University for co-sponsoring this very well-attended event, and congratulates longtime ASOR member Larry Stager on this important occasion.

Friday was jam-packed as well, with 14 regular academic sessions as well as lunch and evening events. This year we had a second lunchtime roundtable session - Household Archaeology in the Bronze and Iron Age Levant - which exceeded all expectations in terms of attendance and generated some interesting discussion by both presenters

and audience members. Friday also included the special double session ACOR at 40 to honor this milestone in the history of our overseas center in Amman. ASOR Honors and Awards were presented at the 4:30 Members Meeting and votes were cast for new members of the ASOR Board of Trustees. After a brief opportunity to grab dinner in the hotel bar or Sauciety restaurant (or in the hotel Starbucks, for the lighter of wallet), many reconvened at 7:00 to honor ACOR on its 40th anniversary and CAARI on its 30th anniversary in a lovely reception held at the hotel that featured delicious refreshments, welcoming remarks by representatives of the two schools and a slideshow featuring shots of the centers' staff and fellows over the years. ASOR warmly congratulates CAARI and ACOR on these important

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Attendees converse and examine books in hallway between academic sessions



Executive Director Andy Vaughn, Vice President of CAP Sten LaBianca, and Executive Committee member Orlyn Nelson converse between academic sessions



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milestones, and recognizes the tremendous impact these two centers have had on the development of archaeological work in Cyprus and Jordan since their establishment.

Those who had to leave ASOR on Saturday for SBL and other commitments missed another long day, which featured some of the most interesting presentations of the entire meeting. Among them were Amihai Mazar and Nava Panitz-Cohen's presentation of the Iron Age apiary discovered at Tel Rehov, and David Schloen and Amir Sumakai-Fink's discussion of the recently-discovered Kuttamuwa stele from Zincirli. From 12:00-2:00, representatives from a number of ASOR-sponsored excavations and publication projects stood by their posters, most of which were on display throughout the meeting, to discuss their projects in ASOR's first annual Projects on Parade Poster Session sponsored by CAP, CAMP and the Junior Scholars Committee. Also scheduled on Saturday was the sold-out Archaeology Workshop for Teachers on Archaeology and Ancient Daily Life held at the Harvard Semitic Museum; many thanks go to Ellen Bedell, the Outreach Committee, and Dena Davis (Semitic Museum) for organizing this popular event. Evening events held at the hotel included a reception honoring Irene Winter (whose career was also celebrated in the session Art and Artifacts II) and a special session on Archaeology and the Media, which brought together producers of TV documentaries as



President Tim Harrison presides over the members' meeting

well as two of our favorite ASOR talking heads – Jonathan Reed and Jodi Magness – in a very interesting and timely discussion on the presentation of Near Eastern Archaeology in the media. Those who had not yet seen Providence Pictures' recently-aired NOVA special – The Bible's Buried Secrets – were treated to some clips, which feature many expert ASOR members and colleagues.

On behalf of the Program Committee we would like to thank all who worked on the 2008 ASOR Annual Meeting, especially co-Vice Presidents for Programs Michael Homan and Morag Kersel, as well as Alex Ratzlaff, Kelley Bazydlo,

and Andy Vaughn. We would also like to thank all those who organized academic sessions and other events this year; the Annual Meeting is a huge collaborative effort, and your hard work is, as always, appreciated. We would also like to welcome Elise Friedland and Andrew Smith, who will be coming on as co-chairs of the Program Committee starting January 1. We all look forward to a warm and successful meeting in New Orleans next year, and hope you will be able to join us. ❁



ACOR/CAARI reception to celebrate 40 and 30 years respectively



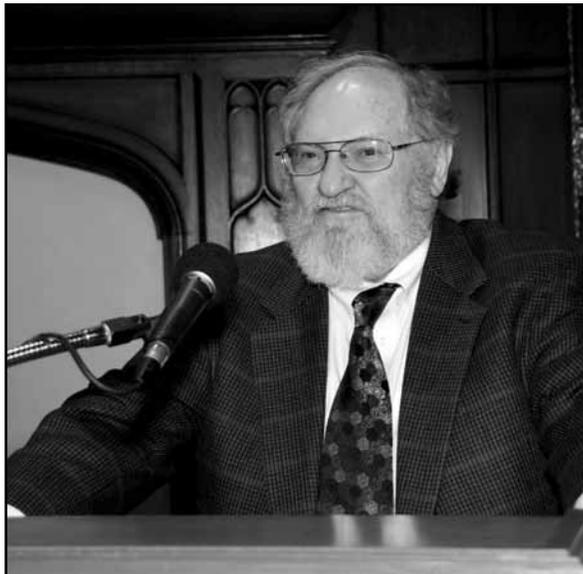
Audience listens to a lecture at the annual meeting

LAWRENCE STAGER'S RESPONSE TO THE PRESENTATION OF A FESTSCHRIFT IN HIS HONOR – BRAUN ROOM, HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL, NOVEMBER 19, 2008

I want to thank you for coming here this evening for this happy occasion. The speakers have been extremely generous in their comments. In fact I felt a bit like Huck Finn attending his own funeral and listening to the eulogies. For their kind words I thank Sam Wolff, Ron Tappy, Israel Finkelstein, Bill Dever, and Shelby White. I am also quite eager to read the fifty articles, which you distinguished scholars contributed to the Festschrift. I can assure each one of you that Editor David Schloen has not allowed me to tamper with any of your articles. I say this because my friend, the late great ancient historian Arnaldo Momigliano, told me that in several contributions to David Robinson's Festschrift, the famous scholar from Johns Hopkins, added such things as footnote 1a—"I would like to thank Professor Robinson for this brilliant insight into such and such."

In addition to being editor of this wonderful Festschrift, which he edited and formatted single-handedly, David Schloen, Associate Director of the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon, has contributed greatly to the first two volumes of final reports for Ashkelon, recently published. And now, if you read Tuesday's New York Times, you would see some of the amazing discoveries that David and his team have made at Zincirli, ancient Sam'al.

And I am grateful to the Harvard Semitic Museum and to the American Schools of Oriental Research for sponsoring this celebration. It pays to be a friend of ASOR and its President, now Tim Harrison. It was my friendship with one of the most successful presidents of ASOR, Philip King, who recommended me to two of his trustees the late Leon Levy and Shelby White—and the rest is history—about 6000 years of it excavated during the past two decades at Ashkelon and now into its second phase, with Dan Master at the helm in the field, and me with just eight more volumes of final reports to go. We are so grateful to Leon, Shelby, and Phil for



Prof. Stager delivering remarks of gratitude for the honorific volume



Prof. Stager receiving his Festschrift from his student, Prof. David Schloen

their vital support and enthusiasm for this enterprise.

In the few minutes I have, I would like to reflect on how I got into this field and the mentors who meant so much to me. No one has been more important to my being here today than my wife Susan, who, for forty years, has not only put up with my absences during my field work but has also actively supported my career, while pursuing her own and raising our family—and, on occasion, she joined in the digging herself.

I came to Harvard College in 1961 from a small farm in Ohio. This was the first year that Harvard decided to go searching for recruits in the countryside. Francis Locke, the editor of the Dayton Daily News and President of the Harvard Club of Dayton, first met me coming off the high school football field and eventually pulled me out of the cornfields and set me in Harvard Yard. Much to my recruiter's surprise I did not play football but instead joined the Glee Club. My freshman year was a traumatic one. I went through one major after another—English Lit, Philosophy, and History—before I found my "home" at Harvard. During the summer before my sophomore year I decided that I wanted to study really ancient history but the History Department back then didn't start history much before Periclean Athens. That meant looking into the NELL (now NELC) Department. During the summer of

'62, I happened to see the famous Biblical Archaeologist Nelson Glueck interviewed on a television show. I found his wonderfully romantic book about his archaeological explorations, "Rivers in the Desert," and read it. That was the course of study I wanted to follow. From the Harvard course catalogue I noticed the name of G. Ernest Wright, who had written and taught about

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Biblical Archaeology. I wrote to him during summer recess from the farm in Ohio, not expecting an answer, but in a couple of weeks I received a letter from him—written in longhand. I thought what a personal touch! Later I learned that he couldn't type. He seemed to be the sort of understanding professor I had been seeking at Harvard but had not yet found. That fall, after meeting Ernest Wright, who introduced me to Tom Lambdin, and Frank Moore Cross, I became a Near Eastern major. It was a small department and so I had all of the greats as my teachers and tutors, including such luminaries as Thorkild Jacobsen, and visiting archaeologists Nahman Avigad and Roland de Vaux.

Both Professors Wright and Cross let me know that they expected much more from me than I expected from myself. What student of Cross's can ever forget his usual introduction to a new and difficult subject with: "As you well know..." And, of course, most of us didn't have a clue as to what he was talking about.

After the BA in 1965, I spent a year at Hebrew University continuing my foray into archaeology, taking courses from Yigael Yadin, another great figure in the field, and exploring the country with scholars from Hebrew Union College, where I met my first inspiration in Biblical Archaeology, President Nelson Glueck. Most important was the beginning of my archaeological field career at Gezer, with Bill Dever as Director and Jack Holladay as Field Supervisor. While wandering around the hills below the Hebrew University campus, I found a robbed out cave tomb. My buddy John Landgraf and I collected some potsherds discarded by the tomb robbers. When we washed them, a four-letter incised inscription appeared on one of them. I immediately sent a photo to Professor Cross, the world's leading epigrapher of Northwest Semitic inscriptions. He assured me that the little inscription was among the oldest Hebrew inscriptions ever discovered, dating to the 11th century BCE, and rather than publish it himself, he encouraged me to do the research. So my first article appeared forty years ago in the *Bulletin of American Schools of Oriental Research*. This is just one example of the generosity and high expectations Frank Moore Cross imparted to his students.

In graduate school Ernest Wright showed his confidence in his youthful students, as he chose Anita Walker and me (at age 27) to be co-Directors of the excavations at Idalion, Cyprus.

I can honestly say that I have never yet applied for an academic job. In 1973, I was in the Judean Desert researching runoff farming for my Ph.D. thesis. Frank Cross and J.T. Milik had done pioneering work there in the late 50's. Both Cross and Wright thought that I should go back and follow up on that research with more digging and surveying. None of us, including then Director of Antiquities Avraham Biran knew that this area of the desert, known as Buqei'ah, was a live-fire zone for the Israeli army. I had an ASOR fellowship, Bill and Norma Dever headed up the School in Jerusalem, and I was unable to enter the desert zone to work on the thesis. Finally through the intervention of my then friend Yigael Yadin, we were able to get permission if

an army contingent escorted us in and out of the Buqei'ah every day. General "Ghandi" Zeevi assured us that when we worked in the north, the army would be practicing with live ammunition in the south and vice-versa. Fortunately our signals never got crossed up—or I wouldn't be standing here today.

On the home front during the time of my research, a job in Syro-Palestinian Archaeology opened up at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. I knew nothing about it. So unbeknownst to me Professor Wright, Professor Walker, and Susan prepared an application for me and sent it to Chicago. To make a long story short, I got the job. And, once again, it was just another example of what a superior mentor can do to promote their students. I hope that I have and can serve my students so ably.

Both Ernest Wright and Frank Cross encouraged their students to strive for excellence even beyond what they had achieved. I don't think we ever quite did that. But it is another lesson that they taught me, and I now have an array of students and former students who have achieved and excelled beyond my fondest dreams. Many are here this evening.

Let me close with one of my favorite passages from T. S. Eliot's "The Waste Land," as he presents his scathing critique of modernity:

*"What are the roots that clutch, what branches grow
Out of this stony rubbish? Son of man,
You cannot say, or guess, for you know only
A heap of broken images, where the sun beats,
And the dead tree gives no shelter, the cricket no relief,
And the dry stone no sound of water."*

In a tribute to one of my very best students, Doug Esse, who died at the early age of 42, in a Memorial Volume edited by Sam Wolff, I offered this comment: That Doug, like so many other archaeologists, myself included, loved the mounds of ruin with their "stony rubbish" and "heaps of broken images," and the challenge they pose to piece together the past, with the hope of making both the past and the present more understandable. So that we can know what the great Roman historian B. G. Niebuhr felt more than 180 years ago, when he wrote: "...He who calls what has vanished back again into being, enjoys a bliss like that of creating." ❄️

NEWLY ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE COMMITTEE ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND POLICY (CAP)

Øystein S. LaBianca

Øystein S. LaBianca is Professor of Anthropology and Associate Director of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI. Since 1971, his career has been devoted to developing methods, procedures, and data sets for studying long-term changes in the daily lives of the inhabitants of Tall Hisban and vicinity. He is currently senior director of the Tall Hisban Excavations, co-director of the Madaba Plains Project, and a member of the Board of Trustees of ASOR and ACOR. In his role as vice president of CAP, his goal is to bring the coordination and cooperation among ASOR field projects to a new level on four closely related fronts including:



(1) development and testing of theoretical frameworks that bridge disciplinary, temporal and national boundaries in order to deepen understanding and facilitate cooperative research on long-term historical processes in the Ancient Near East; (2) development and testing of cyber technologies for field-based and laboratory based data acquisition, recording, quality control, analysis and dissemination; (3) development and dissemination of best practices for sustainable site management, preservation and presentation; and (4) development of capacity within ASOR field projects for successful competition for funding of large-scale international research projects. ❁

NEWLY ELECTED PROGRAM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Elise A. Friedland and Andrew M. Smith II

Elise A. Friedland is Assistant Professor of Classics and of Art History in the Department of Classical and Semitic Languages and Literatures at The George Washington University. A graduate of Williams College (B.A.) and University of Michigan (M.A. and Ph.D.), she taught at Rollins College (Winter Park, FL) for ten years. She specializes in Roman art and archaeology, Roman sculpture, the Roman Near East, and museum studies, and she serves as the sculpture specialist for the excavations at the Sanctuary of Pan at Caesarea Philippi/Banias in Israel and for the site of Jerash in Jordan. Her co-edited book, entitled *The Sculptural Environment of the Roman Near East: Reflections on Culture, Ideology, and Power*, has just been published by Peeters Press (2008). ❁



Andrew M. Smith II is an Assistant Professor of Classics in the Department of Classical and Semitic Languages and Literatures at The George Washington University. A graduate of North Carolina State University (B.S., M.A.) and the University of Maryland (Ph.D.), Smith taught at Dowling College on Long Island before joining the faculty at GWU. He specializes in the social and cultural history of the Greek and Roman Near East. His current research concentrates in Syria, where he is examining social transformations and urban development at the oasis city of Palmyra during the Roman period. Smith is also an active field archaeologist, having worked on surveys and excavations in Greece, Austria, Israel, and Jordan, where he has worked since 1989. Currently, he directs the excavations and survey of the Nabataean, Roman, and Byzantine site of Bir Madhkur in Wadi Araba, Jordan. ❁



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE NOVEMBER 2008 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS

Andrew Vaughn,
Executive Director

SEPTEMBER 2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

* Thanked interim vice president of publications, Joe Greene, for his work and service to ASOR. Greene's term ended with this meeting, and he was succeeded by Jeff Blakely.

* Charged Jeff Blakely as vice president of publications to revise and update the "Guidelines for Publications" in a timely manner and report back to the Executive Committee on the results of that exercise.

* Received and accepted a personnel committee report (on the annual review of the executive director) from president Tim Harrison. Approved a recommendation from the personnel committee to increase the compensation of the executive director from 2/3s to 4/5ths.

* Heard an update on the new website from executive director Andy Vaughn.

* Discussed by-law amendments to remove the management committee.

* Discussed policies regarding ASOR sponsorship and an ASOR policy concerning contested cultural property.

* Endorsed the concept of a "legacy club" (comprised of those individuals who make a planned gift to ASOR of at least \$5,000) and charged the president and executive director to pursue this initiative.

NOVEMBER 2008 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

* Held a moment of silence for the following members and friends of ASOR

who passed away during the past year: Avraham Biran, David Noel Freedman, Victor Gold, Phil Hammond, Moshe Kochavi, Brian Peckham, Richard J. Scheuer, Lawrence Toombs, John Strugnell, Fr. Piccirillo, Douglas Edwards, Paul Åström.

* Eric Meyers gave a remembrance in memory of Richard Jonas Scheuer.

* Orlyn Nelson presented board chair P.E. MacAllister with a book containing MacAllister's speeches to the ASOR board of trustees. The book was presented as part of P.E.'s 90th birthday.

* Approved amending the by-laws to remove the management committee.

* Elected the following individuals as board appointed members of the board: Orlyn Nelson (class of 2011), Joe Seger (Class of 2011), and Lydie Shufro (Honorary Trustee).

* Received a report of the election at the members' meeting of the following Institutional Trustees (class of 2011): Joseph Greene (new), Carol Meyers, Gary Arbino; and of the following individual trustees (class of 2011): Jennie Ebeling, Beth Alpert Nakhai, and Suzanne Richard (new).

* Unanimously elected Øysten LaBianca for a three-year term (until December 31, 2011) as vice president of CAP.

* Received the treasurer's (Sheldon Fox) report and unanimously approved the external audit by Romeo, Wiggins & Company, L.L.P. Fox reported that ASOR's net worth and unrestricted net assets increased in fiscal year 2008.

* Adopted a Whistleblowers' policy and a conflict of interest policy.

* Decided to withhold withdraws

from the Harris endowment and general endowment because of declining equity prices. Decided to reduce the amount of awards from the Platt endowment for the same reason.

* Received a report from executive director Andy Vaughn and president Tim Harrison on a new legacy club initiative (those individuals who have made a planned gift to ASOR of at least \$5,000).

* Unanimously approved the appointment of Elise Friedland and Andrew Smith as Co-Chairs of the Program Committee.

* Unanimously approved the following appointments in publications: M. Allen to COP (class of 2011); C. Rollston, J. Cahill West, and W. Schniedewind to the BASOR Editorial Board (2009-2012); and G. Fassbeck and J. Ebeling as Assistant Editors of NEA.

* Resolved that every board member would recruit one new member (preferably a contributing member) during the next year.

* Received information on "Libel Tourism" and a Record Retention Policy from executive director Andy Vaughn.

* Received reports on the activities at ACOR, AIAR, and ACOR.

* Approved the appointment of new members to the Baghdad and Damascus committees.

* Celebrated the news that board chair P.E. MacAllister received the Michael A. Carroll Award for Community Service in Indianapolis. The award emphasizes the following four qualities: determination, devotion, humility and community.



FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT ASOR FINANCES ENDING JUNE 30, 2008

ASSETS	30-Jun 2008	30-Jun 2007	LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	30-Jun 2008	30-Jun 2007
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 561,013	\$ 499,213	Liabilities		
Investments	\$ 789,371	\$ 863,063	Accrued expenses	\$ 28,706	\$ 23,425
Accounts Receivable:	\$ 84,716	\$ 66,722	Deferred expenses	\$ 299,938	\$ 354,041
Memberships and Subscriptions, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$14,000 and \$22,500 at June 30, 2008 and 2007 respectively			Other Liabilities	\$ 8,871	\$ 10,621
			Total Liabilities	\$ 337,515	\$ 388,087
			Net Assets		
Book sales and other receivables	\$ 18,282	\$ 6,250	Unrestricted:		
Inventory and capitalized costs	\$ 21,054	\$ 21,550	Operations	\$ 64,292	\$ 23,624
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$ 6,724	\$ 6,458	Board designated	\$ 183,943	\$ 178,032
Furniture and fixtures and equipment, net	\$ 4,422	\$ 6,118	Property and equipment	\$ 4,422	\$ 6,118
			Total unrestricted net assets	\$ 252,657	\$ 207,774
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,485,582	\$ 1,469,374	Temporarily restricted	\$ 434,559	\$ 443,918
			Permanently restricted	\$ 460,851	\$ 429,595
			Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 1,148,067</u>	<u>\$ 1,081,287</u>
			TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,485,582</u>	<u>\$ 1,469,374</u>

REMEMBERING ASOR MEMBERS

Richard Jonas Scheuer z"l

JULY 14, 1917 – NOVEMBER 9, 2008

Dick Scheuer was one of ASOR's holy trinity, along with our Board chair, P.E. MacAllister, and the late Charles Harris, past ASOR treasurer and longtime CAARI President. Dick was also an indefatigable supporter of the Albright Institute in Jerusalem within the ASOR family. As the 2007 recipient of the Richard J. Scheuer ASOR Medal one of the first things I did after receiving the award was to call Dick at home and he was absolutely thrilled with my selection. We reminisced about our long association and friendship and we talked about the future: how the archaeology of the region of the Middle East would take shape over the next years and how it might affect the peace process to which we were deeply committed. Dick Scheuer was a man of great insight and foresight; he knew what we did in Jerusalem and in the region was of great moment and would influence the politics of the region for good or for bad for a very long time.

My wife Carol and I got to know Dick when we were fellows at the HUC in Jerusalem in 1964-65 when we were enrolled at the College and participated in the 1964 seminar on biblical archaeology. Our guide in the Negev was Nelson Glueck, and Frank Cross was outgoing Director of the school and our teacher in the summer seminar at HUC, later to be known as the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology. Frank Cross was succeeded in the fall of 1964 by G. Ernest Wright. It was in that fall that the excavations of ancient Gezer began and Carol and I were part of the original staff on the team till 1969. During these years we came to love the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem and got to know Dick and Nelson as the College embarked on a unique expansion of its Israel program. One of the things I remember most vividly from this time is the vision and commitment of Dick and Nelson to making a Jerusalem experience and the Jerusalem school a requirement and major part of the Reform Jewish experience, a requirement that went into effect in 1970. The new campus on 13 King David Street is in great measure the result of Dick's efforts and he was responsible for the hiring of the famed Israeli architect, Moshe Safdie, to draw plans for the expansion of the campus that was completed in 1986 and was featured in the Venice Biennale of

1991. Dick's efforts in behalf of HUC and the city of Jerusalem were recognized in Israel when he was awarded the highest honor of the city: "Yakir of Jerusalem," Beloved and Honorary Fellow of Jerusalem, an honor bestowed on only a select few. Dick was chair of the HUC Board of Governors from 1983-1990 but served on its Board from 1962.

Dick was also a lover of his *alma mater*, Harvard College, from which he graduated in 1939 in Classics. In recent years he was instrumental in the campaign to build a new Hillel house at Harvard. Thirty years after his graduation from the College he graduated from New York University with an MA in Near Eastern History and Archaeology, which led him to his profound love and commitment to the archeology of the land of Israel and of the greater Middle East. His support of ASOR and ASOR publications and the Gezer publications led the director of the Albright Institute, Sy Gitin, to comment: "He believed that if it wasn't published, it was as if it was never excavated." Dick Scheuer knew what it meant to be involved in archaeology and he challenged all of us to respond to its demands with all due efforts.

Dick also loved Jewish art and served as chairman of the Board of the Jewish Museum in New York City from 1971-79 during which time I taught several courses there commuting from North Carolina. Dick's involvement with Jewish museums led him to help support the creation of the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles and to establish the Art Committee for HUC-JIR New York's campus, a committee on which he served until his death. In 1979 he helped launch the organization of American Jewish Museums. Dick was also an avid sailor and with his wife Joan raced a 210 class sailboat on Long Island Sound.

These details are but a snippet of the long and productive life of one of ASOR's and AIAR's angels, and one of the giants of those who have supported and participated in the expansion, growth, and maturation of biblical archeology. Richard Jonas Scheuer was a man of rare talent and energy and saw in the day-to-day workings of ASOR and AIAR the workings of something very special that could translate into a new vision of the Middle East as we know it. Dick was up to the minute about every detail of the Middle East peace process and was as downcast as the next person when terrorism struck. But as a student of ancient Near Eastern history and culture he knew full well that better times would come and that an all-inclusive organization such as ASOR was best poised to help us realize a Middle East in which all parties could participate. While he did not live to see this

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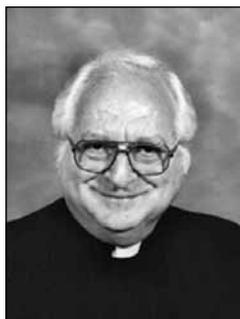
REMEMBERING ASOR MEMBERS

The Rev. Dr. Victor Roland Gold

1924 – SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

The Rev. Dr. Victor Roland Gold died Wednesday September 17, 2008 in Oakland, CA.

Born in 1924, in Garden City, Kansas, Victor Gold grew up in a Texas parsonage, born into a family of Lutheran pastors. He graduated from Wartburg College in 1945, and attended Wartburg Theological Seminary where he graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1946.



After his ordination, his first calls were to serve parishes in Freer and Alice, Texas. After seminary he said he had wanted to do advanced studies in the New Testament; however, William F. Albright convinced Gold to study Hebrew Bible and Archaeology with him at Johns Hopkins University from where he earned his doctoral degree in 1951. During his time of graduate study at Johns Hopkins, he served as a pastor in the Maryland Synod from 1949-1952, and as Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Hamma Divinity School. In 1956, Dr. Gold was called to be Professor of Old Testament at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, where he served for more than 50 years. Within a few years of arriving in Berkeley, Gold became an active participant with the committee which established the Graduate Theological Union. He retired from PLTS in 2004, but continued to teach courses part-time each semester until this fall.

Victor Gold was a faithful member and active participant in the programs of the American Schools of Oriental Research since joining the organization in the late 1940's. Many prominent excavations were privileged with Gold's presence and expertise including Lachish and Beer Sheva, where Victor was a field supervisor in 1969. In addition to his various field work experiences, Victor spent much time at the Albright Institute, including his year as the Annual Professor, 1986-1987. His scholarly writings include the annotations to Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel for the first few editions of the Oxford Annotated Bible and more than two hundred entries in the Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible. He also chaired the Committee of the National Council of Churches that produced the Inclusive Language Lectionary and served as an editor and contributor to the New Testament and Psalms: an Inclusive Version.

But his most obvious calling was his service as an educator. His respectful and empowering approach to education created an air of enthusiasm in his classes. Thousands of students of Bible, archaeology and ministry were blessed with his gentleness and inspired by his unfettered pursuit of biblical literacy and social justice. Even with his encyclopedic knowledge from more than a half-century of teaching he would begin his courses saying, "I'm still doing this because I am still learning new ways of understanding the Bible – from you, my students." May, his ambitions persist through all of us lucky enough to have experienced his calling.

Victor is survived by his wife, the Rev. Frances Norreen Meginness; a son, Victor Jr, and his wife, Christine; a daughter, Joanne; two step-children, Shannon and Timothy and his wife Michelle; eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren. A son Stephan died in 1987. ✨

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happen, he at least saw in his mind's eye the hope all of us in ASOR share: that one day not in the too distant future, all peoples of the region would search into their past to rediscover their present and their future, just as HUC had done when it set down its roots in Jerusalem.

We in ASOR will miss Dick Scheuer for his vision, for his generosity of spirit, for his undying support for the Albright, and for all the nitty gritty things that ASOR has to do in order to fulfill Dick's dream that each dig in order to be

a successful one must be one that publishes its results in a readable and timely way.

Dick was truly an angel, and because of that status he is still watching over us today and encouraging us to get over the current crisis and move ahead by making the past a road-sign to a better future. Dick: we miss you sorely and will never forget you. May you rest in peace and watch over us as we seek to do what you have always urged us to do. ✨

– Eric M. Meyers

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BECOME AN AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH CONTRIBUTING MEMBER



Founded in 1900, ASOR is the premier learned society that supports and fosters historical and archaeological research in the eastern Mediterranean. Together with its affiliated research centers in Amman, Jerusalem, and Nicosia, ASOR supports more archaeological excavations in the eastern Mediterranean than any other American society.

Like most educational, religious, artistic, and cultural institutions, ASOR relies on financial support from lay colleagues and interested professionals to continue its work. Please consider a Contributing Membership – the \$125 fee allows you to support the work of ASOR with a tax-deductible gift of \$100 and receive a discounted subscription to Near Eastern Archaeology for \$25.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE ASOR HONORS AND AWARDS 2008

ASOR Membership Service Award

This award recognizes individuals who have made special contributions on behalf of the ASOR membership, through committee, editorial, or office services. Maximum three annual awards.

Jeffrey Blakely

Jeffrey Blakely participated in his first ASOR dig at Tell el-Hesi at the end of his freshman year at Oberlin College, and he has been active in ASOR and the Hesi project ever since. Blakely has served several stints on the ASOR board, and he most recently answered the invitation of board chair P.E. MacAllister to join the executive committee and chair the board and officers nominations committees. He brought new life to both committees, and he successfully led the recruitment of many of the current officers. When there was a lack of anyone willing to serve as vice president of publications, he stepped up and led the committee first as the interim head and since September as the elected vice president. About 18 months ago when NEA was in crisis and in need of extra help, he agreed to serve as a co-editor. He took over the day-to-day correspondence with authors, reworked countless bibliographies, and edited and rewrote many articles. He negotiated between strong personalities to keep articles and issues published. Without his capable and hard work, NEA would not be caught up. The whole time he worked for the greater good of ASOR while insisting that he not be recognized nor compensated.

The Charles U. Harris Service Award

This award is given in recognition of long-term and/or special service as an ASOR officer and trustee. One annual award.

Robert J. Bull

Robert J. Bull was a mainstay of the Shechem project under G. Ernest Wright, and he excavated one of the peaks of Mt. Gerizim. Robert founded the Joint Expedition to Caesarea Maritima, which excavated in 1971-76, 1978-80, and in 1982. The fruit of this Expedition continues to appear in a variety of publications (notably, the final excavation reports in the ASOR Archaeological Report Series). He inspired generations of students and volunteers to give of their time and energy, and persuaded many scientists, scholars, and others to donate services to the ongoing project. Bull served as Director of the W.F. Albright Institute during the academic year 1970-71. As director, he led a month-long archaeological tour of Turkey on behalf of the Annual Professors and Fellows of the Albright, which included James F. Ross, Hiram



Awards chairperson Susan Sheridan presents membership service award to Jeff Blakely

Keith Beebe, Lawrence T. Geraty, and James F. Strange. As a Professor at Drew University, he was active in interpreting the importance of archaeology to his students and to the public. He and his wife, Vivian Bull, have been very active on the Board of Trustees of the Albright Institute. He is now an Honorary Trustee of the Albright.

The G. Ernest Wright Award

This award is given to the editor/author of the most substantial volume(s) dealing with archaeological material, excavation reports and material culture from the ancient Near East and eastern Mediterranean. This work must be the result of original research published within the past two years. One annual award.

Avraham Faust

Israel's Ethnogenesis

Avraham Faust's *Israel's Ethnogenesis* contributes substantially to several interrelated themes that stand today at the center of archaeological research in the southern Levant. The book traces Israel's emergence in Canaan and the complex processes of ethnic negotiations and re-negotiations that accompanied it. The book concludes that Israel's emergence as a distinct ethnic group in continued on page 14

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Canaan was a long process, covering the entire Iron I (ca. 1200 - 1000 BCE), and continued even afterward. In addition, the book contributes to the archaeology of ethnicity, a field which currently attracts significant attention of archaeologists and anthropologists all over the world. The book is highly original and thought provoking, and makes a significant contribution to one of the most intriguing questions in the archaeology of the Near East.

The W.F. Albright Award

This award honors an individual who has shown special support or made outstanding service contributions to one of the overseas centers – ACOR, AIAR, CAARI, or to one of the overseas committees – the Baghdad committee and the Damascus committee. Given as appropriate.

Lydie Shufro

Lydie Shufro is an outstanding Albright Trustee, who over the last decade and a half, has made significant contributions to the growth and development of the Albright Institute. She has been instrumental in obtaining two Getty Trust grants for the Albright library, totaling more than a quarter of a million dollars. In addition, Lydie helped raise a large portion of the private funds for the Albright's first NEH \$2,000,000 Challenge Grant and \$700,000 towards the second NEH Challenge Grant. She organized and chaired the ASOR

Albright Centennial celebration in Boston, 'The House that Albright Built,' and was the main organizer and fundraiser of the Albright's 2000 Centennial celebrations held in Jerusalem. Lydie is also initiator and editor of the Albright Newsletter.

The W.F. Albright Award

This award honors an individual who has shown special support or made outstanding service contributions to one of the overseas centers – ACOR, AIAR, CAARI, or to one of the overseas committees – the Baghdad committee and the Damascus committee. Given as appropriate.

Stuart Swiny

When people think of CAARI, they think of Stuart Swiny. Stuart became the third Director of CAARI in 1980. He remained for 15 years and transformed a barely visible entity into a thriving fixture in Nicosia, Cyprus. Under his tenure, CAARI moved from a small modern flat into an expansive colonial town home housing offices, a hostel, and a thriving library. Stuart was instrumental in acquiring the Schaeffer library and the extensive sherd collection, which make CAARI a world-class research center for Cypriot archaeology. While Director, he led a major research excavation at the site of Sotira Kaminoudhia. Aply supported by his wife Laina, Stuart has continued his selfless service to CAARI serving as a trustee, establishing a student Fellowship, and overseeing the current expansion. *

FELLOWSHIPS FROM THE CYPRUS AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CAARI), NICOSIA

The Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI) in Nicosia, Cyprus, welcomes scholars and students specializing in archaeology, history, and culture of Cyprus and the eastern Mediterranean. CAARI is located in central Nicosia close to the Cyprus Museum, major libraries, and the main business and commercial district. The institute has hotel accommodations and excellent research facilities. For information on CAARI see <http://www.caari.org>
The Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI) announces the following fellowships:

THE DANIELLE PARKS MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

One grant of US \$2,000 to a graduate student of any nationality who needs to work in Cyprus to further research on a subject of relevance to Cypriot archaeology and culture. The purpose of the fellowship is to help cover travel to and living expenses in Cyprus. Applications in 2009 are invited especially from students of antique Cyprus. While in Nicosia, Cyprus, the fellow will reside at CAARI. During his/her stay, the fellow is expected to give a presentation at CAARI on a subject related to his/her research. The fellow will periodically keep the Director of CAARI apprised of his/her research activities. The fellow will acknowledge CAARI and the Danielle Parks Memorial Fellowship in any publication that emerges from the research carried during the fellowship.

Application Requirements: Please send project statement; expected schedule of work; budget; curriculum vitae; two letters of recommendation.

Deadline: February 1, 2009.

Information & Submission of Applications:

CAARI at Boston University
656 Beacon Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02215
Fax: 617-353-6575; Email: caari@bu.edu

THE HELENA WYLDE SWINY AND STUART SWINY FELLOWSHIP

One grant of US \$1000 to a graduate student of any nationality in a U.S. college or university to pursue a research project relevant to an ongoing field project in Cyprus; to be used to

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fund research time in residence at CAARI and to help defray costs of travel. Residence at CAARI is required.

Application Requirements: Please send project statement; expected schedule of work; budget; curriculum vitae; two letters of recommendation.

Deadline: February 1, 2009.

Information & Submission of Applications:

CAARI at Boston University,
656 Beacon Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02215
Fax: 617-353-6575; Email: caari@bu.edu

THE ANITA CECIL O'DONOVAN FELLOWSHIP:

One grant of US \$1000 to a graduate student of any nationality, studying in any nation, to pursue a research project relevant to an ongoing field project in Cyprus; to be used to fund research time in residence at CAARI and to help defray costs of travel. Residence at CAARI is required.

Application Requirements: Please send project statement; expected schedule of work; budget; curriculum vitae; two letters of recommendation.

Deadline: February 1, 2009.

Information & Submission of Applications:

CAARI at Boston University
656 Beacon Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02215
Fax: 617-353-6575; Email: caari@bu.edu

CAARI SENIOR SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE:

An established scholar who commits to stay at least 30 days in succession at CAARI, ideally in the summer, and to be available in evenings and weekends to younger scholars working there, in return for 50% reduction in residency rate. Must have PhD in archaeology or ancillary field for at least 5 years prior to visit, be fluent in English (but may be of any nationality), and be committed to mentoring students. Travel, other expenses not covered.

Application Requirements: Letter detailing the applicant's proposed schedule; summary curriculum vitae.

Application Deadline: April 15, 2009

Information & Submission of Applications:

Director, CAARI
11 Andreas Demetriou St., 1066 Nicosia, Cyprus.
Email: director@caari.org.cy

Further Fellowships for research in Cyprus:

2008 GETTY RESEARCH EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN AND MIDDLE EAST:

This new fellowship program is open to scholars who are citizens of Afghanistan, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece,

Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Turkey, and Yemen, and who wish to undertake a specific research project at CAARI (or an American overseas research center in another participating country). Period of residency is one to two months. Applicants must have a Ph.D. degree or professional experience in the study or preservation of cultural heritage. Cypriot scholars must select a center other than CAARI. Applications are submitted to the American overseas research center in the scholar's home country.

Information & Submission of Applications:

<http://www.caorc.org/programs/getty.htm> or e-mail: director@caari.org

Application Deadline: January 15, 2009

Information & Submission of Applications:

Director, CAARI
11 Andreas Demetriou ST., 1066 Nicosia, Cyprus.
Email: director@caari.org.cy

FELLOWSHIPS IN ART HISTORY AT FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS:

Four US \$22,500-per-year Kress Institutional Fellowships in the History of European Art for a two-year research appointment in association with one of a list of foreign institutes, among them CAARI. Restrictions: Restricted to pre-doctoral candidates in the history of art. Nominees must be U.S. citizens or individuals matriculated at an American university. Dissertation research must focus on European art before 1900. Candidates must be nominated by their art history department.

Information:

Samuel H. Kress Foundation
174 East 80th Street
New York, NY 10021
<http://www.kressfoundation.org/twoyearfell.html>

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS PROGRAM for postdoctoral research in Cyprus.

Information:

Council for International Exchange of Scholars
3007 Tilden Street NW, Suite 5 M
Washington, DC 20008-3009;
Telephone: 202-686-7877

FULBRIGHT STUDENT PROGRAM for pre-doctoral research in Cyprus

Information:

Fulbright Student Program
Institute of International Education
809 U.N. Plaza, New York, NY 10017-3580;
Telephone: 212-883-8200

W.F. ALBRIGHT INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH APPOINTEES, RESIDENTS AND STAFF 2007–2008



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REPORTS FROM AIAR

Origins and Spread of Metallurgy: A Zooarchaeological Approach

Haskel J. Greenfield, University of Manitoba
Annual Professor



My research was on the spread of metallurgy during the Early and Middle Bronze Ages. Previous research into the spread of metallurgy focused on several sources, including the relative frequencies of stone vs. metal tools in sites, the description and analysis of metal

finds, textual sources, evidence for mining, etc. The problem with most of these data sources is that they are spatially and temporally biased - they do not reflect all levels and all spatial locations within a society nor all time periods. Nor is it possible to quantify the rate and nature of spread in a society with such few data. Most early metal has either decayed or been recycled. As a result, a new means of documenting the spread of metallurgy needed to be found.

Recently, I have pioneered a new approach to monitoring the spread of metallurgy in a region through the study of animal bones from archaeological sites. Instead of basing analyses upon chance metal finds, cut marks on animal bones are used to quantitatively document the rate and nature of the spread across a region of metal tools for butchering animals. Animal bones are ubiquitous on archaeological sites and can provide a larger and more quantifiable database.

Experimental research established the relationship between the cutting edge characteristics of metal and stone tools and the marks they produce when applied to bone. The type of tool (metal or stone) used to produce cut marks on bone can be identified microscopically. Observations are best made by creating silicone molds of cut marks and examining them in a scanning electron microscope under high magni-

fication. It then becomes possible to quantify the spread of metallurgy from site to site, level to level, and house to house in a settlement. Sites in Israel were chosen for analysis because Israel has relatively large, well-collected, well-curated, and easily accessed collections of animal bones with secure dates attached to them. Israel is the only country in the Near East where such analysis is currently possible on a country-wide scale.

Previously, sites ranging from the PrePottery Neolithic to the Chalcolithic (8000-2200 BC) were examined to test the hypothesis that metal might have been used for utilitarian purposes prior to the Bronze Age. The research demonstrated there is no evidence for the use of metal in the butchering of animals prior to the Early Bronze Age. As a result, the proposed second phase of research focused on the Early and Middle Bronze Age sites.

Remains from several sites were examined during my tenure at the Albright as the Annual Professor in 2007-08 - Halif/Lahav, Qasis, Afek, Tsaf, and Shiqmim. Preliminary results indicate that metal blades were not used for butchering animals prior to the Bronze Age. In the EBA, there are few metal cut marks on bones (<20%). In the MBA, the situation dramatically changes. The frequency of metal cut marks dramatically increases (c. 80%). This trend continues into the LBA.

The data collected are essential for understanding the spread of a functional metallurgical butchering technology. For instance, by mapping the spread of a bronze metallurgy, it is possible to understand the dynamic relationship between the development of bronze metallurgy and the origins of complex societies. A functional metal butchering technology arose far later than the earliest complex societies. Such metal tools were not used by the earliest elites to demonstrate social and economic differences within a society. The spread and acceptance of metallurgy was a long term process, not completed in the Near East until the end of the Bronze Age.*

Historical Commentary on the Second Book of Chronicles

Isaac Kalimi, Northwestern University
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow



The aim of my research was to write an historical commentary on the second book of Chronicles, which will interact with other commentaries and fill in lacuna in the study of Chronicles. I paid particular attention to the historiographical aspects and author's literary devices and methods

uncovered in my published books and articles (e.g., *The Reshaping of Ancient Israelite History in Chronicles*, 2005).

There, I showed the potential of literary phenomena for explaining even the smallest differences between Chronicles and its Deuteronomistic Vorlage, and demonstrated how the Chronicler used his sources and textual traditions to construct his history. This commentary will examine the text against the broad perspective of ancient Israelite and Near Eastern history and historical writing methods, and will pay special attention to the time and place of the Chronicler, and to the history of the interpretation of Chronicles, its usage and impact history. It will also treat the manuscripts of the earlier biblical books among the Dead Sea Scrolls, and utilize the valuable contributions of the broad classical Jewish and Christian exegesis, without neglecting the results of other up-to-date modern critical biblical, historical and archaeological research in the field.

During my tenure as an NEH Fellow, I completed several scholarly studies. These include sections of my book, *Retelling of Chronicles in Jewish Heritage – A Historical Journey: Interpretation, Reception and Impact-History of the Book of Chronicles from the Hellenistic Age to the Beginning of Modern Jewish Biblical Scholarship (3rd Century B.C.E. to the 17th Century C.E.)*, 2009. In addition, I wrote a number of articles for international refereed journals. Among them is the detailed methodological study on “The Book of Chronicles in Its Own Historical Context: History, and History-Writing, -Evaluation, and -Reliability,” which will be published in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 68 (2009).

Based on this study, I presented a paper in Hebrew in May, 2008 at Ben Gurion University of the Negev’s Department of Bible, Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies for which I was awarded the university’s Zvi and Matilda Roifer Prize for the 2008 Annual Lecture.

I also wrote four articles whose results will be integrated in my historical commentary on *Chronicles*. Some of the articles investigate specifically the usage of and relationship between *Chronicles* and the New Testament. These include: “Murder in the Temple: The Chronicler’s Story of the Priest-

Prophet Zechariah and Its Impact on the Post-Biblical Literature” in *Revue Biblique* 115 (2008); “The Story about the Murder of the Prophet Zechariah in the Gospels and Its Relation to *Chronicles*” in *Revue Biblique* 116 (2009); “The Murders of the Messengers: Stephen (Acts) versus Zechariah (*Chronicles*) and the Ethical Values of “New” versus “Old” Testament” in *Australian Biblical Review* 58 (2008); and “Robbers on the Road to Jericho: Luke’s Story of the Good Samaritan and *Chronicles*,” which I have submitted for publication. Further articles, namely: “Persepolis,” “Sanballat” and “Sheshbazzar,” were written for *The New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible*, Abingdon Press, 2008.

As a result of conducting part of my research in the library of the *Ecole Biblique*, I was invited to participate in a new international project carried out by the *Ecole*, entitled *Bible and Its Traditions*, to which I will contribute volumes on the books of *Haggai* and *Chronicles*.

My thanks go to the Albright Fellowship Committee and the National Endowment for the Humanities for the generous award; to the Director of the Albright Institute, Professor Seymour Gitin, for his warm welcome and support, and to the wonderful staff of the Institute for all their kindness. #

Silver in the Age of Iron and the Orientalizing Economies of Archaic Greece

Christine Thompson, University of California at Los Angeles
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow



My research agenda concerns the earliest evidence and motivations for Phoenician westward expansion in the early first millennium, and the reasons for the adoption of silver coinages by over 100 Greek cities before c.480 BCE, when few silver objects appear in the archaeological record of the Greek world during the preceding 700 years.

Foundational sources include a wide range of Classical and biblical authors, monetary inscriptions, a corpus of 35 Hacksilber hoards from Iron Age Cisjordan, and gold and bronze objects from Greek tombs. In order to explain the preference for gold and bronze objects in Greek tombs of the Archaic period (c. 800-480 BCE), I had to take the Late Bronze Age as my chronological starting-point.

I argue that emphatic quantities of gold and bronze typify hoards and assemblages of the Late Bronze Age koine economy in the eastern Mediterranean, and that gold and bronze would be remembered as koine metals for centuries after the collapse of the Late Bronze Age palatial economies. The Iron Age hoards from Cisjordan, on the other hand, exhibit an unmistakably clear preference for silver, almost always to the exclusion of gold and bronze. Beyond that, the Iron Age silver hoards from Cisjordan present the largest identified concentration of silver hoards in the ancient Near East.

The patterned increase in the hoarding of silver to the near exclusion of other metals during the Iron Age indicates that there was an inflection in the Levantine economy be-

tween the 13th and 11th centuries. This ‘Inflected Economy’ is defined by changes in the geographical emphases and primary material objectives of trade, as well as the structures which shaped economic activities. In more concrete terms, Sardinia replaced Anatolia as the primary supplier of silver to the Levantine economy; Phoenicia replaced Ugarit as the hub of overseas metals trade; silver became the most important metal to the Levantine economy (generally) at the expense of gold and bronze; and entrepreneurial trade flourished in the absence of the restrictive controls of palatial administrations.

By the 8th and 7th centuries, an ideology had developed in the Greek world involving an elite identification with both gold and bronze. This identification helps characterize them specifically as heroic elites, who were lingering conceptually in their koine past (which they remembered as their heroic age). The ideology relates to an actual ‘Heroic Economy’, centered on Euboea, where gold and bronze objects are a regular feature of elite burials, and Levantine influence is evident in craftsmanship. The Phoenicians enjoyed a favored status among these elites, as the former were the surviving heirs to the heroic past to which the latter laid claim. As much as this Heroic Economy valued oriental technology and aesthetics, the preoccupation with the heroic past was anti-orientalizing in contemporary ideological terms. The Greeks operating the Heroic economy appear to have maintained a hierarchically ranked social structure predicated on the controlled circulation of gold and bronze. This was characteristic of the koine past, when trade was conceptually packaged as ‘gift exchange’; likewise, the elite Greeks avoided silver and the overt forms of (Phoenician) mercantilism it had come to represent.

Between c.600 and 480 BCE, Greeks interested in cultural and economic consolidation, as well as egalitarian politics, adopted silver as their primary monetary metal in competition with elite Greeks and Phoenicians. Silver was more suitable

than gold for men of average means, and by minting coinages that were both subject to and the product of local authority, they restricted the potential flow of Phoenician silver. Briefly

stated, silver coinages were adopted within the context of expanding trade, competitive ethnogenesis, egalitarian politics, and cultural consolidation. *

Final Report on the Excavations at Horvat Dafit

Dr. Benjamin J. Dolinka, Independent Researcher
Ernest S. Frerichs Fellow/Program Coordinator



My research project at the Albright Institute was a continuation of work conducted as the Ernest S. Frerichs Fellow / Program Coordinator in 2006–2007 (ASOR Newsletter, Winter 2007/8: 19-20). During the tenure of my second award period as Frerichs Fellow / Program Coordinator, I made significant progress on the research and writing of the final report on the excavations at the Nabataean/Roman site of Horvat Dafit in the southern Wadi Arabah, conducted by the late Rudolph Cohen in 1983-1984.

First, I completed the pottery chapter for the volume, which involved writing the descriptive narrative for Catalogue Numbers 47–101, the non-Aqaba Wares, and doing an exhaustive search for parallels of their respective forms. Of particular importance from the ceramic assemblage is an imported molded lamp which bears quite possibly the only known portrayal on a lamp of the Syrian princesses Julia Domna and Julia Maesa. Of equal significance is an Aqaba Ware one-handled drinking vessel inscribed with Nabataean characters, which are usually found only on lamps produced in Petra and are not attested on any other type of Nabataean ceramic forms.

Second, I examined, photographed, catalogued and began the research/writing for the chapter on the small finds from Horvat Dafit. Included among the finds were: a necklace of stone and glass beads; a Roman fibula of the AVCISSA type used by the Roman military during the first through

third centuries CE; a bronze signet ring with its gemstone missing; a worked bone tool or writing instrument made from the spine of a sea urchin (Cidaris) commonly found in the Red Sea; and a hoard of eight complete cowrie shells (*Cypraea pantherina*).

Third, I tried in vain to locate an iron sword and pilum tip found in Locus 6 at the site, which dates to the late-second/early-third centuries CE. They were not in the IAA Metals Conservation Lab at Har Hotzvim in Jerusalem (i.e. no record whatsoever), nor were they on the metals database at the IAA Beit Shemesh Warehouse. The only records for these items, therefore, are the locus sheets, a handwritten finds list, and (most importantly) an in situ photo. Closer examination of the photo has revealed that the iron sword is of the spatha type, a long sword utilized by the Roman cavalry auxiliaries. Towards the end of the second century, the spatha replaced the gladius used by the Roman infantry as well, and contemporaneous exemplars from Dura-Europos support its find context at Horvat Dafit.

Finally, I was able to obtain a photograph of Rudy Cohen, which will be used for the frontispiece of the volume. Taken together the manuscript now stands at 152 pages in length, not including illustrations. As I have just completed the preliminary research on the small finds and Roman military equipment from Horvat Dafit, I will need to conduct more in-depth and comparative examination of these items before finishing the writing of their respective chapters. All that remains beyond this is the writing of a synthetic final chapter that places Horvat Dafit into its proper socio-economic and historical context for the region during the Antonine and Severan periods (AD 138–235). The final form that my research and writing conducted as an Albright Frerichs Fellow will take is a monograph on the results of the excavations at Horvat Dafit. *

Willibald of Eichstätt (d. 787) and the Christian Topography of Early Islamic Jerusalem

Rodney Aist, University of Wales at Lampeter
George A. Barton Fellow



My research on the Christian pilgrim texts of the Early Islamic period (638-1099 CE) focuses on two primary questions. First of all, I am interested in the commemorative topography of Jerusalem, or the basic questions of identity and location. Secondly, my research analyzes the religious imagination of the Jerusalem pilgrims regarding their image of Jerusalem and the respective holy places.

Much of my tenure at the Albright was spent revising my Ph.D. thesis, which will be published as *The Christian*

Topography of Early Islamic Jerusalem: The Evidence of Willibald of Eichstätt (700-787 CE). Willibald's account of Jerusalem in the *Vita Willibaldi* describes the place of the Holy Cross, the place of Calvary, the tomb of Christ, the Church of Holy Sion, the pool of the Paralytic Healing at the portico of Solomon (the pool of Bethesda), the Jephonias monument (associated with the Dormition traditions of Mary), the tomb of Mary, the Church of the Agony and the Church of the Ascension.

My research has highlighted, among other sites, two commemorative columns of the post-Byzantine period (614-1099). First, Adomnán (c. 680), Epiphanius (bef. 692), Willibald (724-26) and Daniel the Abbot (1106-08) provide a remarkably coherent description of a monument dedicated to the Miraculous Healing (legend of the Holy Cross) that was located within the complex of the Holy Sepulchre. The purpose-built monument was near a certain 'house of

Joseph', north of the east end of the Basilica of Constantine and in an exposed area that most likely communicated with the *cardo maximus*. Scholars have previously assumed that Adomnán's description of a 'very tall column' is a reference to the large column of the North Gate plaza, which is depicted on the Madaba Map. Secondly, Willibald describes a column associated with the Jephonias legend. Both the internal evidence of Willibald and the independent descriptions of Epiphanius and the Armenian Guide (c. 625) place the monument just outside the city's East Gate. The respective arguments of the two columns will appear in the forthcoming issue (Autumn 2008) of the Bulletin of the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society.

Next to Willibald, my research has focused upon the aforementioned text of Adomnán of Iona (d. 704). Adomnán's *De locis sanctis* (DLS), the most descriptive pilgrim source of the post-Byzantine period, records the eyewitness account of a certain Arculf (c. 680), while integrating written sources from the library of Iona, mostly dating to the 4th and 5th centuries. Recent work among scholars of early Irish history has rehabilitated Adomnán from the role of Arculf's scribe to

the author of a sophisticated treatise on the Holy Land. The research provides an important caveat against the uncritical pillaging of the text – i.e., confusing the earlier written material for the seventh-century testimony of Arculf.

The pendulum, though, has swung decidedly too far, with the same scholars arguing that Arculf is little more than a 'literary fiction' of Adomnán while dismissing the text's value as a 7th century source for Jerusalem. These arguments, however, have not evaluated Adomnán's account vis-à-vis other independent pilgrim sources of the period, particularly in terms of the commemorative topography of the city. In doing so, my research has newly identified a number of sites mentioned by Adomnán, and virtually all of the Jerusalem topography described in DLS is mentioned in other post-Byzantine sources, establishing both the breadth and reliability of Arculf's report.

Finally, I have completed an article examining Adomnán's description of Jerusalem with Bede's redaction of DLS, analyzing the respective texts in terms of the topography of Jerusalem, their respective use of sources and their resultant images of the city. ❁

The Construction of Sacred Space at Tel Dan in the Iron Age

Andrew Radford Davis, Johns Hopkins University
Samuel H. Kress Fellow



Area T from the northern site of Tel Dan represents the source of one of the richest cultic assemblages of Iron Age Israel. The site's longtime excavator, Avraham Biran has published several studies which outline the basic history and significance of this area, but the wealth of material from Area T and its importance in the religious history of ancient Israel invite further research. Much of this research will have to await the publication of the final report on the Iron Age strata from Tel Dan, but through the generous support of the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology-HUC and its director, David Ilan, I have been able to examine the unpublished excavation notes, season reports and artifacts as part of my dissertation research. This access, in addition to the Albright Institute's stimulating academic environment, has helped me address my particular research question – the transformation of sacred space in the Iron Age IIB (ca. 850-734 BCE) – with fruitful results.

The Iron Age IIB at Tel Dan consists of Strata III-II, and my time in Jerusalem was spent mainly on developing portraits of Area T for each stratum on which I could map the locations of various cultic artifacts. My goals were to identify what kind of cultic practices were associated with which parts of the area and also how the organization of the cultic space changed between Strata III-II. As for the latter question, it became clear that some significant changes were made in Stratum II. Prior to this stratum, parts of the cultic precinct had been rebuilt with ashlar masonry, but this

new monumentality did not affect the overall openness of the area. Worshippers could still move freely with access to all cultic structures, including the northern platform (the "bamah") and the central altar platform. This situation changed in Stratum II, however, as new construction began to restrict access around Area T. Most importantly, a temenos wall was built around the central altar, which prevented a direct approach to the altar and reduced the space available to worshippers. This and other modifications indicate that a new hierarchy of cultic space was operative in Stratum II.

Yet, even with these new restrictions, other sections of Area T remained open and suggest a fundamental division in the area's organization. The western section (T-West) in particular was accessible in both strata, and its cultic artifacts revealed it to be the site of small-scale cultic activity. In one room, for example, a low stone altar was set in the ground and was surrounded by three small shovels and a bronze bowl; analysis of the room's animal bones confirmed that it was used for small sacrifices. This evidence, combined with T-West's more modest architecture, indicates that this section was reserved for smaller, possibly familial, cultic events, in contrast to the larger sacrifices that would have taken place on the large central altar. This interpretation of T-West means that the sanctuary at Tel Dan accommodated not only large communal celebrations commensurate with its monumental architecture but also more quotidian rites that are often associated with domestic space. Area T is an example of a single cultic complex that supported a wide range of cultic activity.

Drawing on textual evidence from the Hebrew Bible as well as selected texts from neighboring cultures, I hope to demonstrate that the sanctuary at Tel Dan is part of a long-standing northern cultic tradition that can shed new light on our understanding of the religious history of the divided monarchy. ❁

Figural Motifs on Philistine Pottery and Their Connection to the Aegean World

Linda Meiberg, University of Pennsylvania
Samuel H. Kress Fellow



At the end of the Late Bronze Age, c. 1200 BCE, it is widely thought that the Eastern Mediterranean basin experienced a series of catastrophic upheavals that resulted in the destruction of palatial societies in Greece, Anatolia, the Levant, and possibly Cyprus. Seeking safety and the means to survive, large groups of people migrated. Egyptian sources refer to these groups by what has been loosely translated as the “Sea Peoples,” and the most illustrious among them were the Philistines. In the biblical sources, that reflect slightly later realities, the Philistines lived in the southern Coastal Plain of Israel. This has been confirmed by over a century of archaeological excavations.

Although great strides have been made in the past 25 years to learn about the initial stages of Philistine settlement in southern Israel, little is known of their place of origin. The prevalent current archaeological opinion views the Philistines as an amalgamation of these same Sea Peoples showing affinities with cultural elements from the greater Aegean world.

My dissertation focuses on the relationship between the Philistines in the southern Coastal Plain of Israel and the population of other regions in the Eastern Mediterranean basin through the study of figural motifs on Philistine pottery. If the inspiration for the figural decoration on Philistine pottery can be traced, it may perhaps be possible to determine the origins of the Philistines. Further, it will contribute to identifying the impetus behind other defining features of Philistine material culture.

The main corpus of ceramic material that I am studying

is Mycenaean IIIC:1 Ware, named for its similarity to late Mycenaean pottery, which is sometimes called Philistine Monochrome Ware, as well as its immediate ceramic successor, Philistine Bichrome Ware. These two types of locally produced pottery date to the 12th-11th centuries BCE and are uncovered at sites throughout Israel. Figural decoration on both types of Philistine wares is largely limited to images of birds and fish.

Birds and fish are common motifs on Mycenaean pottery from mainland Greece and the Aegean islands throughout the Late Bronze Age, as well as from Cyprus and coastal Anatolia. My primary research goal, by studying these figural motifs, is to try to ascertain which region or regions within this greater Aegean world contributed most directly to the stylistic development of figural decoration on Philistine pottery.

After spending five months at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens analyzing the ceramic material housed in museums throughout Greece and five months at the Albright Institute in Jerusalem studying Philistine pottery, my initial conclusions show that the figural motifs on the Philistine wares are remarkably faithful in particular aspects of style to earlier as well as contemporary pottery from the Aegean world, particularly from the Argolid, Attica, and the Dodecanese as well as from Cyprus, with perhaps the little known area of the Anatolian coast acting as a conduit between the latter two. When each motif is broken down into its various ornamental elements it appears possible to find sources of inspiration, particularly on Cyprus, or, if not on Cyprus itself, then the artists in the two regions of Cyprus and Philistia shared a common source. Furthermore, these individual elements were not employed because they were true to nature, but because these were just a few of the stylistic conventions that were transmitted to the southern Levantine coast with the movement of populations throughout the 12th century and subsequently adopted by the Philistine artists. ✨

Bathing on the Edge of Empire: An Architectural and Social Study of Tetrarchic Military Baths in Palaestina and Arabia

Robert Darby, University of Missouri-Columbia
Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellow



The Roman Empire under the first Tetrarchy (293-305 CE) saw fresh interest in the construction of public baths. An analysis of earlier work on eastern baths of the Tetrarchic period indicates the need for a broad, regional synthesis in order to understand the sudden proliferation and prominence of these structures in the political and ideological contexts of the Tetrarchy. The goal of my project is to elucidate our understanding of Late Roman bath architecture through a comparative analysis of known baths in the Roman provinces of Arabia and Palaestina associated with the military

build-up of the eastern frontier under the Tetrarchs and their immediate successors.

The focus will be on answering several outstanding questions about these structures including the reasons for renewed bath building under the Tetrarchs: What role did military baths play in the acculturation of the local populace? What can the decorative program and artifact assemblages of military baths in the East tell us about the people who used them? Can regional variations be discerned from the evidence of my sample group, and, if so, do they suggest a shared design in their construction? Finally, what role did military baths play in the building program of the Tetrarchs?

More traditional studies of Roman baths have largely forsaken regional architectural developments and underlying socio-economic and political dynamics in favor of broad, diachronic synthesis. However, in contrast, the focus of my study is on a regionalized group of bath buildings constructed within a narrow temporal span, namely c. 293 to 337 C.E.,

in order to better understand why and how these baths were built during this time.

During the past year, the emphasis of my research has been on the archaeological remains of several Late Roman military bathhouses in Israel, including those at the sites of Yotvata, 'En Avdat, 'En Hazeva, and Beer Sheva. All of these sites are located in the region of the Negev Desert along the western side of the Wadi Arava. Working at the Albright, I was able to compile comparable published materials, access unpublished information in the IAA archives related to the sites in my study, and communicate with archaeologists who worked on these sites. In addition, I was able to meet many other scholars who graciously provided me with assistance and access to numerous baths not originally included in my research.

Preliminary results indicate that the baths at 'En Hazeva, Yotvata, and 'En Avdat conform to Krencker's angular row type, with an easily identifiable room sequence featuring a caldarium, tepidarium, and an off-set frigidarium forming a distinctive L shape, a design common to Roman military

baths in the West. Additionally, these baths can be assigned to a plan common to the region during the Late Roman/Byzantine period referred to as the "Southern Type," featuring an open courtyard instead of a palaestra. This suggests that the bath at Yotvata represents the earliest example of the "Southern Type", and that this design originated from the Roman army.

Another important discovery to emerge is the topographical relationship of auxiliary baths to their nearby castella or forts. Comparative analysis indicates that these bath complexes are situated in a manner that maintains and respects the directional orientation of their associated forts, which are aligned to the cardinal points of the compass. The implications of this are significant, as it suggests a shared regional design in their construction and topographical placement. If this hypothesis is correct, it may be possible to identify bath complexes associated with other castella in the region, through an examination of the topographical alignment of unexplored, outlying structures. *

Specialized Pastoralism and Social Stratification: Analysis of the Fauna from Tel Tsaf, Israel

Austin (Chad) Hill, University of Connecticut
Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellow



During my time at the Albright, I analyzed a portion of the faunal remains from the Chalcolithic site of Tel Tsaf as part of my dissertation research at the University of Connecticut. Tel Tsaf is the first major excavation of a middle Chalcolithic site in Israel located near Beth

Shean in the Jordan Valley. The ongoing excavations at this site are in the process of redefining how archaeologists interpret the transition from egalitarian farmers in the Neolithic to complex states in the early Bronze Age. The site contains extensive architecture and agricultural storage spaces, suggesting a previously undocumented intricate social hierarchy.

My primary research goals for the analysis of the Tel Tsaf fauna include assessing the economic basis of the site at this critical period near the start of the secondary products revolution, the variability in the spatial distribution of faunal remains at the site, and documenting the differential function of architectural features in order to examine variability in social status.

In the Levant, a major change in economic strategy has been associated with the Chalcolithic period (Levy 1983). At some point between the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, pastoralists in the region switched from a generalized subsistence-level herding strategy to an intensive surplus driven strategy that relied on secondary animal products. Secondary products are animal products that are exploited while the animal is alive, such as milk, wool, and labor. Due to the paucity of faunal analyses from the limited number of excavated Chalcolithic sites in the region, the earliest dates

for this "secondary products revolution" remain speculative. The fauna from Tel Tsaf will be used to test hypotheses about the timing and extent of secondary product exploitation during the middle Chalcolithic period.

The second part of my research examines social relationships through spatial patterns in the faunal record. It has been argued that important transitions in social stratification occur in the Chalcolithic immediately prior to the inception of Bronze Age states (Garfinkel et al. 2007). While there is clear evidence for trade and inequality between Chalcolithic sites, few studies have examined the degree of social hierarchy operating within Chalcolithic communities. My analysis of the spatial distribution of fauna from Tel Tsaf will address intrasite variability by identifying differences in the distribution of cuts of meat, and the quantity of animals amongst architectural features. Species, age, and sex data will be used to detect differential access to faunal resources and, potentially, the appearance of a wealthy elite class.

Preliminary results from the faunal analysis completed at the Albright suggest that while dairy and wool production were probably not emphasized, animal labor likely was. The majority (60%, n=136) of cattle at the site survived past 5 years of age, and some survived more than 10 years. In contrast, only 25% of sheep (n=31) and 36% of goat (n=89) at Tel Tsaf survived past reproductive maturity, which occurs at approximately two years of age for these species. This pattern suggests that while caprines were raised primarily for meat, cattle were likely raised as draft animals for plowing. The presence of draft animals is perhaps not surprising given the site's numerous grain silos, which provided significant grain storage capacity and suggest an intensified agricultural strategy. *

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Interpreting Judean Pillar Figurines and Israelite Religion in Light of Archaeological Data, Anthropological Theory, and Gender Analysis

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Judean Pillar Figurines (JPF) regularly feature in discussions of Israelite religion, but these clay female statuettes also come from a time of state power consolidation and Judean identity formation. As daily use objects, JPFs are well-situated for tracking ideological change across multiple levels of Judean society. Analysis of production and design illustrates the way Judeans defined themselves in relation to their past traditions and their contemporary neighbors. Production intensity indicates the degree of influence the figurines exercised in daily life. Consumption contexts show which sectors of Judean society were most influenced by the figurines. Thus, the figurines were affected by and helped to affect major internal political and economic changes, mapping such changes on representations of the female body.

To study these processes, my dissertation first updates the catalogue of known figurines. Secondly, it focuses on design and production organization, comparing JPF design with other ANE statuary, tracking internal developments within the JPF corpus, and identifying the intensity of production and potential trade networks. Finally, the project recontextualizes the JPF's, situating contexts on several continuums, including rural-urban, private-public, sacred-mundane, and elite-common. Ultimately, the dissertation investigates the distinctiveness of the JPF design, the intensity of production and use, the varying social groups involved in consumption, and the function of female representations in Judah's identity formation.

My time at the Albright has been devoted to data collection. Information about every anthropomorphic figurine (ca. 1000 pieces) is being entered into a working database, including the following: all previous catalogue numbers,

registration numbers, description of clay, temper, and surface treatment, archaeological locus, description of locus and larger architectural context, date of locus, all registered objects found in the same locus, and description of figurine design. I have completed the material from Jerusalem, which is by far the most numerous and the least represented in previous treatments of anthropomorphic statuary. I have also worked with current excavators to access currently unpublished materials that significantly enhance our knowledge of JPF context. Further, I have created databases for all major sites in Israel as well as sites in Jordan. I have also begun to organize funding and approval for petrographic analysis, which should establish the intensity of figurine production.

Preliminary conclusions suggest that almost all figurines are found in disposal contexts, and thus the archaeological context cannot directly evidence use practices. Further, while there is a clear domestic pattern of disposal, it gives little indication of ritual disposal practices. More importantly, alongside the domestic distribution patterns, there are previously unnoticed figurine concentrations that may represent marketing or cultic contexts. Additionally, early comparison of different socio-economic enclaves within the same site suggests that economic status does affect figurine popularity.

Within Judea, the data evidences a different distribution for molded heads and pinched heads, a pattern that may be aligned with political changes such as the destruction of the Shephelah and concomitant centralization around Jerusalem. Furthermore, the later preference for pinched heads may also be due to an ideological shift, contrasting Judah's anthropomorphic art with that of surrounding states that prefer molded designs. Judah is not alone in its preference for locally distinctive depiction of the female body, however, as is evidenced by the designs in Philistia, Ammon, and Edom. Thus, the early data support the association between depictions of the female body and community identity consolidation, as groups seek to define themselves in distinction from their neighbors. More, the JPF's do seem to be effective in tracking the way this identity formation was variously implemented by different segments of society. ❁

Crossing the Nile: Tracing Chalcolithic Interaction Spheres and Communication

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In the absence of texts, material culture continues to provide the best evidence for establishing the existence of contact between different prehistoric societies. In the early days of archaeology, scholars frequently used similarity of objects or motifs as proof of contact such that diffusion became the de facto explanation for an enormous variety of change over vast territories. The reaction against such diffusionist explanations

was understandable. The reverse is also possible: the significance of contact between neighboring societies is downplayed in favor of independent innovation. Such descriptions fit particularly well with models of cultures as adaptive systems.

During the 2008 spring semester at the Albright, my research focused on the evidence for contact between Egypt and the southern Levant. Early relations between these two regions remain poorly understood, leading to conflicting interpretations that affect our models of why societal change occurs. The recent refinement of periodization for Predynastic Egypt has tightened chronological synchronisms with the southern Levantine Chalcolithic, creating an opportunity to reevaluate the evidence for contact.

The agro-pastoral inhabitants of the southern Levant during the Chalcolithic period (c. 4500-3600 BC) created objects with a striking array of iconographic detail and abstrac-

tion, indicative of imaginative elaboration of compelling and powerful ideas. Initially considered an intrusive immigrant population, most archaeologists now see continuity of Late Neolithic to Chalcolithic populations.

Most Chalcolithic material culture was produced locally. Ceramic analyses of Beersheva pottery assemblages indicate that only one jar - from Abu Matar - was imported, possibly from Samaria or the Galilee. A limited number of coastal and northwestern Negev sites (Gilat, Site Y2, Site R-48) exhibit a few fossiles directeurs of the early Chalcolithic period along with Naqada I sherds, but none are in firm stratigraphic contexts. Non-ceramic items found in the southern Levant either originated in Egypt or were inspired by Egyptian ideas. Parallels to Predynastic Egyptian artifacts include objects such as bowls of alabaster and diorite, a few ivories, particularly a few from the Beersheva sites of Shiqmim and Bir es-Safadi, and shells. In addition, steatite beads from Shiqmim and Peqi'in identified by Danielle Bar-Yosef Mayer and her colleagues probably originate in Egypt. Manufactured from talc, steatite is not a local resource in the southern Levant, but available in both Egypt and Turkey. Steatite beads are commonly found in Predynastic Egyptian graves (e.g., Badari). Another likely Egyptian import to Chalcolithic Palestine is the shell from *Aspatharia rubens*, a Nilotic species commonly found in south

Levantine mortuary contexts. Finds of *Aspatharia* associated with carnelian beads and 'alabaster' pendants support the likelihood of Egyptian origin. Finally, the eight gold and electrum rings from the Nahal Qanah mortuary cavern point to long distance connections to Nubia, the most likely source of these raw materials.

In the other direction, southern Levantine influence in Egypt is now unequivocal. Until recently, the earliest known vessel from Palestine found in a Predynastic Egyptian context was a jar found in a Badarian tomb at Qaw el-Kebir. Now, however, pottery excavated at the Predynastic Delta site of Buto indicates that immigrants from the Levant used local materials with non-local, wheel manufacturing techniques typical of the Beersheva sites. Such pottery constitutes approximately 30% of the assemblage from the early levels, providing the first strong evidence for southern Levantine influence in the Delta.

The archaeological record confirms contact between Predynastic Egyptian populations and those living in the southern Levant during the Chalcolithic. Southern Levantine populations clearly sought prestige items of gold, shell, non-local stone and ivory. Further investigation is warranted to understand the nature of these prehistoric exchange relationships. ✨

The Presence of God: The Old Testament in the Building of the State's Identity in Eastern Christianity

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Andrew W. Mellon Fellow



The idea of the sacred is directly related to the idea of the presence of God. Based on pagan beliefs, the idea was developed by the Romanian scholar Mircea Eliade, who called it hierophania. He interpreted this phenomenon as a place or way of creating contact between the realms of the sacred and the profane. In the monotheistic context, this idea is based on the Jewish tradition of the Tabernacle and the presence of God with His Chosen People. This is the source of the subject and all subsequent developments have their roots in it.

My project focuses on the impact this idea had on the political sphere in pre-modern times and especially its use as an argument for legitimizing power and as a way towards the formation of power's identity in the periphery of the Eastern Christian tradition.

The very idea of the sacred place or hierotopia is crucial for Eastern Christianity. As an example of its application, we can cite the worship of holy icons. In that sense, it is much closer to the Old Testament idea of the presence of God in the Holy of Holies in the Temple than to the more rational Western theological tradition. The Byzantine and Eastern Christian traditional beliefs in general are more sacramental than intellectual and at the same time Eastern kingship is closer to the Kingship of the Chosen People of Israel in biblical times.

In my project, I follow the creation of the identity of power and the state, based on the Old Testament idea of the presence of God. I based my research on materials from the three countries in which the Eastern Christian tradition is practiced - some Orthodox, others not - Ethiopia, Georgia, and Bulgaria.

Ethiopia is a remote Christian country lost in an Islamic sea. It was strongly influenced by Jewish culture and due to its isolation, it was able to maintain and develop some old Judeo-Christian traditions. The basic text of Ethiopian literature which I discuss in my study is the royal book of Kebra Nagast or the "Glory of the Kings." It is very important to stress the influence of the clash of the Christian and Jewish traditions in Southern Arabia (now Yemen) on the preparation of the book of Kebra Nagast. The region of Caucasus, especially Armenia and Georgia, is one of the cradles of Christianity. The main texts that I focus on here are "The History of the Bagrationi Dynasty" by the 10th century author Sumbat Davitis-dze and the "Life of Saint Nino." The ideological text of the legitimization of the *Renovatio imperii* in 12th century Bulgaria was lost, but we can get closer to its contents through the narration by the Byzantine author Nicetas Choniates of the rebellion of the Assenid brothers in the north of the Haemus Mountains in Bulgaria.

On the basis of these texts, I am trying to present the idea of the presence of God perceived in three aspects: as a blood kinship with King David; through creating some replicas of the biblical holy places (and especially of the Home of God like the Temple, the Ark, etc.) each in their own country; and through Our Lady and the Ecumenical church perceived as the abode of Lord. My aim is to trace the development of the Old Testament images and ideas in a Christian milieu. ✨

Social and Economic Transformations at the end of the Pre-Pottery and the Beginning of the Pottery Neolithic in the Southern Levant

Arkadiusz Marciniak, University of Pozna
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow



In my research project at the Albright Institute, I aimed to study the nature and dynamism of social transformations in Pre-Pottery Neolithic (PPN) and Pottery Neolithic (PN) societies in the southern Levant. This research was an integral part of a larger project focusing on the transformations between the Neolithic and early Chalcolithic in Central Anatolia where I have been working for eight years. Accordingly, my Mellon project aimed to examine the differences and similarities between the southern Levant and Central Anatolia as well as to identify and explain reported idiosyncracies and place them in a firm regional context.

Of particular interest were two major aspects of these changes; namely, 1) the social, economic and cultural foundations of the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B sequence as a framework for (2) the disintegration of the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B marked by a collapse of large settlements. These were explored through evidence pertaining to settlement patterns and the organisation of space alongside changes in architecture, burial practices as well as technology and subsistence, in particular, human-animal relations.

A major part of my research was comprised of a study of published field reports produced by different teams working on the PPNB, PPNC and Pottery Neolithic in the southern Levant over past decades. I have thoroughly analyzed materials from 19 PPNB, PPNC and PN sites from the region.

Analysis of selected aspects, as presented above, made it possible for me to discern the major development of local communities at the end of the PPNB and in the following PPNC and PN periods in the southern Levant. The PPNB

can be defined as a confined society. Here we encounter similar arrangements of space, function of architecture, similar utilization of bounded space and communality of technological solutions as well as the integrative character of communal rituals. The collapse of the PPNB model is evident from the disintegration of all major settlements and the erection of small villages. The following PPNC and PN periods are marked by significant differences in almost every aspect of material culture and technology.

Previously uninhabited areas became populated, including the Mediterranean coastal area and this period is clearly marked by the dispersion of local populations into smaller groups. Interestingly, there is a significant continuity between the PPNC and PN in many aspects of material culture. In comparison with the steady rate of changes in the previous period, developments in the PPNC and PN occurred more rapidly.

The results of my research makes it possible to formulate a number of preliminary conclusions regarding the similarities in the trajectory of developments in the southern Levant and Central Anatolia. Firstly, after more than a millenium of uninterrupted development in both regions (PPNB and Aceramic B respectively) and the dominance of communal organizations, the system disintegrated and was finally abandoned. Secondly, this significant change may be indicative of the emerging dominance of domestic modes of production and consumption, with the associated development of the independent household as the dominant mode of social organisation. Thirdly, in regional terms these transformations resulted in the emergence of farming settlements in the region, in particular, many smaller sites, which continue to be occupied into the subsequent Early Chalcolithic. Fourthly, everyday life in the post PPNB and Aceramic Pottery B respectively, was far less permeated by complex ceremonial activities than the preceding period. This enabled local groups to inhabit small settlements in strategic locations, start economically efficient lives and fully exploit the available resources. *

Levantine Pottery from the Late Old Kingdom Necropolis in West Saqqara and from the Middle Kingdom Settlement on Elephantine Island (Egypt)

Teodozja Izabela Rzeuska, Polish Academy of Sciences
Andrew W. Mellon Fellow



My project consisted of two parts: the first related to the pottery found at Saqqara (south of Cairo); the second to vessels discovered in a settlement on the Elephantine Island of Aswan. The first part focused on ceramics as yet unpublished: amphorae, pithoi and a jug of Early Bronze III "Combed Ware." These vessels were excavated by a Polish-Egyptian archaeological mission from Warsaw University's Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology. The material is from the tombs of nobles dating to the late

Old Kingdom (Sixth-Eight Dynasties) and came from well-dated archaeological contexts. The vessels were deposited in underground burial chambers during funerary ceremonies as part of the tomb goods, which according to ancient Egyptian beliefs ensure a prosperous afterlife. A chronological and cultural analysis of these ceramics, seldom found in Egypt, is an important element of studies on the late Old Kingdom in Egypt, not only helping to define the character and scope of relations between Egypt and the Near East at the end of the Early Bronze III, but also providing a basis for synchronizing the two cultures more precisely. An important factor affecting these studies is the first petrographic analysis conducted on samples of clay fabric from the vessels in question, which has shown that they were probably local Egyptian copies of the reputed Levantine "Combed Ware." This throws entirely new light on the question of trade and its character between Egypt and the Near East. The presence of these vessels in burial contexts posed the question of their role. Probably they served

as containers for one of the seven sacred oils (cedar oil) used during the Ritual of the Opening of the Mouth.

The second part of my project was a study of imported pottery, including so-called Canaanite jars, Kamares cup(s) and a fragment of a Cypriot Red-on-Red jug. The settlement at Elephantine has been the object of systematic research by a joint mission of the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo and the Swiss Institute for more than 30 seasons. The pottery comes from private houses dated to the late Middle Kingdom. The second half of the Middle Kingdom was a time of great economic and cultural change in Egypt, paralleling a gradual and inescapable political decline. The appearance of ever more numerous imported wares testifies to a flourishing trade, but also and perhaps foremost, to a growing influx of peoples into Egypt from the Syro-Palestine region. This is the case for Lower Egypt where the Asiatic element eventually took power, establishing the Hyk-

sos Dynasty, but in Upper Egypt, particularly its southern extremes (Elephantine was the capital of the First Nome of Upper Egypt), there was never any historical record of such settlement. The presence of Levantine ceramics so far south and so far from the potential settlement of Asiatic peoples, poses a highly intriguing question as to its sources and role in economic life.

I was, therefore, trying to determine more precisely the provenance of these vessels; attempting to establish the regions in the Levant where these vessels may have been produced, as well as identifying trade routes, distribution channels leading to southern Egypt, and finally, determining the kind of goods contained in the vessels, especially in the storage jars. The study of imported ceramics from Elephantine undoubtedly augments our knowledge of Egyptian and Syro-Palestinian trade contacts on the eve of the Second Intermediate Period. *

A Comparative Analysis of the Lower Paleolithic Assemblages in the Caucasus and the Levant

Vladimir Doronichev, ANO Laboratory of Prehistory, St. Petersburg
Glassman Holland Research Fellow



In my research, I focused on a comparative analysis of the Lower Paleolithic lithic industries in the Caucasus and West Asia, specifically in the Levant. The known hominine fossil and lithic records provide a strong basis for identification of east Africa as the 'core' area for the genus Homo and tool-making origins since about 2.6 Myr, and for the hominine expansions into South Eurasia. The Dmanisi site in Georgia is now the earliest Paleolithic occupation of West Asia dating to 1.8 Myr. Lacking the assortment of retouched flake tools, the Dmanisi industry looks similar to the Pre-Oldowan Industry from East Africa.

The further development of Pre-Oldowan industry into Classic Oldowan and then to Developed Oldowan/Early Acheulean occur in East Africa. Many scholars link the appearance of Acheulean in Eurasia as a result of the out-of-Africa migration of *H. ergaster/erectus* hominids. Contrary to this paradigm, lithic records show the distribution of the Developed Oldowan/Early Acheulean only within East Africa as far north as 'Ubeidiya in Israel, and the absence of any Early Acheulean occupations in either Mediterranean Europe or Caucasus. The Core-flake-tool Industry occupied those areas during that time. The Bizat Ruhama site in Israel produced a core-flake-tool industry dating to 1-0.8 Myr.

The further development of Acheulean technologies diverges between a "cutting tip" concept (CT Acheulean) and a new conception of "cutting edge" supported by large flake technologies (CE LFB Acheulean). In the Levant, only the Geshen Benot Ya'akov site in Israel, dating to 800 kyr, represents the LFB Acheulean. In the Levant, the CT Acheulean is best represented from 800 to 500 kyr. The Latamne and El

Meirah sites in Syria best represent the CT Middle Acheulean (some scholars call it "the Latamne facies") in the Levant.

In the Caucasus, Middle Acheulean is unknown. In the Treugol'naya Cave, which I excavated in the Northern Caucasus, the Lower Paleolithic core-flake-tool industries lacking Acheulean bifaces were recovered from strata dating from 600 to 350 kyr. More and more facts confirm the distribution in Central and Eastern Europe of the Pre-Mousterian complex vis-à-vis the area of the Acheulean complex distribution in West Europe and West Asia.

The period from 500 to 200 kyr ago is characterized by a wide spread of the Late Acheulean. The Levantine Late Acheulean remarkably differs from the Middle Acheulean by the total absence of CT Acheulean or CE LFB Acheulean industries. It seems likely that a few

Acheulean industries with large and well made all around bifaces and biface or tranchet cleavers represent a transitional Middle/Late Acheulean unit. The Ma'ayan Barukh site in Israel is the richest Middle/Late Acheulean location in the Levant. In the Southern Caucasus, the Djabber location in Armenia provided the most representative collection of large bifaces with transverse blow.

The majority of Late Acheulean sites in the Levant are dated from 400 to 300 kyr. The Levantine Late Acheulean is characterized by smaller bifaces of predominantly pointed forms and with unworked bases, and rich and variable flake tools. The fall in biface standardization and degree of refinement is especially characteristic of the Acheulo-Yabrudian, which represents a final stage of the Acheulean techno-complex in the Levant. In the Southern Caucasus, the earliest Acheulean industries from cave sites Kudaro 1 and Azykh are dated to 300 kyr. I identify this industry group as the Kudarian variant of the Late Acheulean. Rare pointed bifaces, representative core-tools and numerous flake tools are characteristic of the group.

Throughout its geographical distribution in the Levant and Southern Caucasus, the Acheulean disappeared some 200 kyr ago when it was replaced by Middle Paleolithic stone traditions. *

ASOR AND THE CRESCENT CITY

by Michael Homan



The 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research will be held in my hometown of New Orleans, and we're working hard to put together a great program to compliment this great city. The failure of the levees following Hurricane Katrina devastated the city in 2005. Today nearly one-third of the houses are uninhabited. It took my family three years

to get back into our house. But you won't see too many signs of this disaster in the downtown area/French Quarter, where our hotel is located. The conference hotel is a famous one, the Astor Crowne Plaza, and you can reserve your room now at ASOR's website. The hotel is right at the intersection of Canal

and Bourbon streets, close to plenty of places to eat, drink, dance, and add to your bead collection. It's also very close to the Society of Biblical Literature meeting. We're planning several events and sessions based on the city and its history. We're organizing a service opportunity for Wednesday, November 19th, in which we'll help Save Our Cemeteries excavate a cemetery back to the pre-flood level. We're also planning several sessions with themes related to New Orleans, including Karel Van der Toorn's plenary address on the topic of ritual and magic in the ancient Near East, and additional sessions on topics such as music, food, destruction and diaspora, dance, and we have a large Saturday evening session planned on the topic of Voodoo Dolls of the Ancient Near East. We'll be putting together a list of cultural activities taking place that weekend in the city, including music, restaurants, and tours. Moreover, I can promise you warmer weather than Boston. On Thanksgiving Day it was sunny and 75 degrees here. So bring your appetite, comfortable shoes, and Laissez les bon temps roulez next year in New Orleans. *



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ACOR AT 40 (1968–2008) AND CENTER 2008 UPDATE

Barbara A. Porter,
ACOR Executive Director

To celebrate ACOR's 40th anniversary year, parties were held in Amman on 12 June at ACOR and in Boston on 21 November at the ASOR Annual Meeting. The Boston party was hosted with CAARI which has reached its 30 year milestone. There also was a double academic session with eight papers providing reflections on the role that ACOR has played in the archaeology of Jordan. This is not the place to look back on all four decades as we shall be doing so in the next ACOR Newsletter (No. 20.1, Summer 2008). We offer here instead a few images to commemorate these events and a brief center annual update.

The June party in Amman was presided over by Artemis Joukowsky, President of the ACOR Board of Trustees since 1992, and H.R.H. Prince Raad bin Zeid, our First Vice President, and a strong supporter in Amman of each long-term director, namely James Sauer, 1975-81; David McCreery, 1981-88; Bert de Vries, 1988-91, Pierre Bikai, 1991-2006, and myself since April 2006.

Those who are familiar with ACOR are very well aware that the constant has been Mohammed Adawi (Abu Ahmed), who has cooked for ACOR since 1968, the very year it was founded by ASOR. Previously, he had worked at the Jerusalem School (now Albright) from 1960 to 1967 and started his involvement with archaeological projects in 1956 when he was hired to work at Jericho under Kathleen Kenyon.



H.R.H. Prince Raad addressing the guests at ACOR's 40th Anniversary Party in Amman; B. Porter and A. Joukowsky (left) and Pierre Bikai, Bert de Vries, and Fawwaz Al Khraysheh (Director General of the Department of Antiquities) (right) (Photo: C. Ayoubi)



Martha and Artemis Joukowsky flank Mohammed Adawi, ACOR chef for 40 years at the June 40th Anniversary Party in Amman (Photo: B. Porter)

There have been many vicissitudes at ACOR over the years and its history mirrors the geopolitics of the region. Mohammed remembers them all. He also has seen ACOR grow and has dealt with large numbers of dig teams and Arabic students with great aplomb.

This past summer ACOR again hosted the Arabic Language Program administered by CAORC as part of the Critical Language Scholarship Program funded by the Department of State's Educational and Cultural Affairs. Twenty-nine students of beginning and intermediate level Arabic lived at ACOR and another twenty-two advanced language students resided in the nearby Bateel Apartments. They studied at the Qasid Institute and had tutoring sessions at ACOR. The program was a great success, and we look forward to hosting the program again in 2009.

In terms of our publication efforts, we reprinted for the third time our bestseller, *The Mosaics of Jordan* by Father Michele Piccirillo who sadly passed away on 26 October and is greatly missed. In the summer when he learned of the reprinting, he expressed his pleasure and appreciation. ACOR also published a new book in 2008, namely *Megalithic Jordan: An Introduction and Field Guide* by Gajus Scheltema, the former ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Jordan. This handy guide was designed and edited by Isabelle Ruben (who also prepares our newsletter layout) and further editing was done by me to prepare it for press. We launched the book on 30 October at ACOR and the event was attended by the author who came from New York and his mother and cousin from the Netherlands as well as many friends of ACOR including members of the diplomatic community. H.R.H. Princess Sumaya Bint

continued on page 30



*H.E. Ambassador Scheltema and Barbara Porter at the Launch of Megalithic Jordan
(Photo: C. Tuttle)*

continued from page 29

El Hassan was the gracious patron for the evening. The speakers and presidors for the sessions of ACOR at 40 in Boston were myself, Chris Tuttle (ACOR's Assistant Director), past directors Dave McCreery and Bert de Vries, and scholars in the field who have been fellows at ACOR (see photo caption). When I conceived of the program last January, I envisioned a generational mix with a diachronic perspective and that is what came to pass. My own talk entitled "ACOR at 40: The Peoples and Places" gave me the opportunity to reflect on the extraordinary efforts of the many people who have kept ACOR going through thick and thin and have made it prosper. Each director has made his own mark on the institution and all were busy on many fronts. The tally of the projects undertaken by Pierre and Patricia Bikai in their first few years in Jordan was truly impressive and that intensity hardly abated in their fifteen-year tenure at ACOR. The Bikais, who now live part of the year in Aqaba, attended the Amman June celebrations. The Boston party was enriched by the presence of Sue Sauer who was able to see many old friends and meet some of the younger generation involved with ACOR.



*The speakers at the two sessions honoring ACOR at 40 in Boston are (from left): Dave McCreery (presider), Burton MacDonald, Barbara Porter (presider and presenter), Sten LaBianca, Tom Schaub, Chris Tuttle, Bert de Vries, and Bethany Walker; missing Gary Rollefson
(Photo: E. Porter Honnet)*

To prepare for the session I reviewed most of the archival photos stored at ACOR and relived many previous celebrations marking the completion of major projects and other milestones (the 25th was well documented as was the building of our permanent home which opened in 1986). We plan to include archival photos on our new website (www.acorjordan.org) when it is completed in 2009. Sarah Harpending, who joined ACOR's staff on a part-time basis in May 2008 as a consultant for special projects, has been the driving force behind the new website.

At the ACOR Board meeting in Boston, it was announced that Christopher Tuttle will be promoted to Associate Director as of 1 January 2009. On that day he and I will be traveling to Senegal to participate in the CAORC Overseas Directors' Meeting. As Chris is in charge of the Arabic Language Program in Amman, it will be helpful to have discussions with colleagues from the other centers with similar programs.

Next year will mark 60 years of Jordanian and American official relations. ACOR hopes to be able to assist the US Embassy with some of the planning, and this seems particularly fitting given that we represent a considerable portion of this period. We shall have a large number of fellows in residence (several with families) as most have chosen the spring term in Amman (versus this past fall). We look forward to making their time in Jordan productive and enjoyable during this memorable year that includes many special anniversaries. ❁

Check out the new ASOR website at www.asor.org



WINNERS OF THE OPEN ARCHEOLOGY PRIZE

Winners of the second ASOR Open Archaeology Prize competition were announced on November 21, 2008 at the ASOR annual meeting in Boston. The ASOR Open Archaeology Prize, sponsored by the Alexandria Archive Institute, rewards open access, digital contributions to Near Eastern archaeology. A panel of judges from the ASOR community selected winners based on the project's scholarly merit, its potential for reuse in research or teaching and its availability on the web in a free and reusable format.

First Prize, Senior Scholar

First prize (\$500) was awarded to **Charles E. Jones, Head Librarian, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University** (<http://www.nyu.edu/isaw>), and **Research Associate, The Oriental Institute, University of Chicago** (<http://oi.uchicago.edu>) for his website **Abzu** <http://www.etana.org/abzu/>



Launched in 1994, Abzu collects and manages open access scholarly material relating to the ancient Near East and Mediterranean world, including the rich corpus of ETANA Core Texts, which are available for free for noncommercial teaching and research. In addition to standard search functions, Abzu provides several different ways to track recently entered material, such as news feeds (<http://www.etana.org/abzu/rss/>), a clip blog (<http://www.bloglines.com/blog/AbzuNew>) and a widget (<http://www.widgetbox.com/widget/abzu-bibliography>). It also allows for the re-presentation and re-formatting of material indexed in it in the continuing series "AWOL - The Ancient World Online", beginning at the Ancient World Bloggers Group Blog

(<http://ancientworldbloggers.blogspot.com/2008/04/awol-ancient-world-online-1.html>). Abzu is self sustaining with selection and editorial control having been integrated into the workflows of the editor at the Research Archives, Oriental Institute, the Blegen Library at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and at the Library of the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World. ❄

Second Prize, Senior Scholar

Second prize (\$200 in books, co-sponsored by the David Brown Book Company) was awarded to **Aaron Brody, Pacific School of Religion** for his website **Badè Museum of Archaeology** <http://www.bad.psr.edu/>

The Badè Museum's web site was recently overhauled to allow for virtual outreach to a limitless audience, helping educate beyond the brick-and-mortar walls of the Museum's galleries, and bringing transparency to the Museum's holdings. The web site provides access to reusable content from archaeological excavations at Tell en-Nasbeh, conducted by WF Bade in the 1920s and 1930s under the auspices of Pacific School of Religion. The new web site provides digital versions of the contents in the Museum's exhibits, overviews of research projects and facilitates the ordering of traveling exhibit materials. By openly licensing all content with Creative Commons licenses, the Bade team has ensured that these free and open resources can be downloaded for reuse by anyone. The photographs and short movies are of particular interest, and Aaron informs us that many more resources will be coming on line in the near future.



An image from the Badè Museum of Archaeology web gallery, depicting pottery washing at the Tell en-Nasbeh excavations (1932)

Guidelines for next year's ASOR Open Archaeology Prize can be found at the ASOR web site (<http://www.asor.org/fellowships/annual-meeting/open-archaeology.html>). ASOR members may submit their own project or nominate the project of another ASOR member.

The ASOR Open Archaeology Prize competition is sponsored by the Alexandria Archive Institute, promoting the development and use of open educational resources in archaeology and related disciplines. The competition aims to enhance community recognition of open scholarly communication and receives generous support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the David Brown Book Company and the American Schools of Oriental Research. ❄

Pacific Northwest AAR/SBL/ASOR

April 24-26, 2009

Pacific Lutheran University
Tacoma, WA

<http://www.pnw-aarsbl.org/index.htm/>
galondon@earthlink.net

**Upper Midwest Meeting
of ASOR/AAR/SBL**

March 27-28, 2009

Luther Seminary
St. Paul, Minnesota

<http://www.umw-aarsbl.org/>
schuler@csp.edu

**Pacific Southwest
(Western Commission
for the Study of Religion)**

March 22-23, 2009

Santa Clara University,
Santa Clara, CA

<http://www.sjsu.edu/wecsor/>
– bnakhai@email.arizona.edu

Central States SBL/ASOR

March 29-30, 2009

St. Louis Marriott West

http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/rm_central.aspx/
david.chapman@covenantseminary.edu

Southwest Commission on Religious Studies

March 6-8, 2009

Marriott Hotel, DFW
Dallas, TX

<http://www.swcrs-online.org/>
sortiz@swbts.edu

New England Region

April 24, 2009

Andover Newton
Theological Seminary
Newton, MA

[http://www.sbl-site.org/
meetings/rm_newengland.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/rm_newengland.aspx)

Eastern Great Lakes Biblical Society

March 26-27, 2009

Salt Fork Resort & Conference Center
Cambridge, OH

[http://www.jcu.edu/Bible/EGLBS/
richard@gannon.edu](http://www.jcu.edu/Bible/EGLBS/richard@gannon.edu)

Mid-Atlantic AAR/SBL

March 26-27, 2009

Radisson Cross Keys Hotel
Baltimore, MD

[http://www.marsbl.org/
gittlen@bhu.edu](http://www.marsbl.org/gittlen@bhu.edu)

Midwest Region

February 13-15, 2009

Olivet Nazarene University
Bourbonnais, IL

[http://www.midwestsbl.org/
lyounger@teds.edu](http://www.midwestsbl.org/lyounger@teds.edu)

**Southeastern Commission for the
Study of Religion**

March 13-15, 2009

Sheraton Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC

[http://secsor.appstate.edu/
laughlin@averett.edu](http://secsor.appstate.edu/laughlin@averett.edu)

PLATT AND HERITAGE FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASOR is pleased to announce that it will once again provide summer excavation scholarships and grants for ASOR members and students at ASOR-member schools. Last summer (2008) ASOR awarded 40 scholarships and awards. This summer (2009), ASOR hopes to award 45 grants and fellowships, but the total number is contingent on receipt of donations to support these grants. Unfortunately, due to the downturn in the stock market, the Harris Fellowships will not be awarded in 2009, and there will be fewer Platt Fellowships than in 2008. It is ASOR's goal to recruit more Heritage donors to offset these reduced numbers, and we encourage individuals interested in providing this crucial scholarship support to contact executive director Andy Vaughn (asored@bu.edu). Check out the webpages below for information on our summer excavation grants:

HERITAGE FELLOWSHIPS

We have a goal of 35 fellowships totaling \$40,000, but we are still recruiting Heritage members (the grants are thus contingent on gifts being received). These fellowships are funded directly from contributions from our Heritage members. Some of the awards are designated by the donors, and some of the awards are open to participants or excavation directors. Unless the donor specifies otherwise, these grants are limited to ASOR-affiliated excavations or participants at ASOR-affiliated excavations. Grant support will normally be \$1,000 with a few awards of \$1,500-\$2,000. Deadline for applications is February 20, 2009. Details can be found at <http://www.asor.org/fellowships/heritage.html>

PLATT FELLOWSHIPS

We anticipate 7-9 scholarships of \$1,000 each for excavation participants (either volunteers or staff members who do not receive travel support). The total number of grants is contingent on the value of the Platt endowment on January 1, 2009. Applicants must be ASOR members (or students enrolled at ASOR member schools). While we encourage applicants to participate in ASOR-affiliated digs, the fellowships are open to applicants to participate in any excavation in the eastern Mediterranean. Deadline for applications is February 20, 2009. Details can be found at <http://www.asor.org/fellowships/platt.html>



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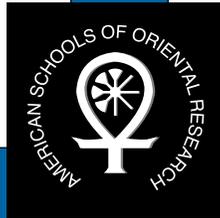
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