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ASOR

ASOR at Boston University, 656 Beacon Street, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02215-2010

Task Force Paves Way for Leadership Transition

The Strategic Planning Initiative undertaken last September in Atlanta is beginning to bear fruit within ASOR circles in several ways. The first involves the posting of a four part report on the results of the planning exercise on the ASOR web site (www.asor.org and click on the NEWS section). The second also involves the web site and specifically its development as a more vital source of information and exchange as suggested during the retreat discussions. Especially useful is the new "Site Map" feature, which allows for a full outline view of the structure and parts that comprise the site. This and other additions and enhancements have been largely the work of Britt Hartenberger but with the cooperation of all members of the staff and leaders of the organization.

At the November meetings in Boulder, the Board of Trustees passed a proposal to continue the work of the planning initiative by forming a Leadership Task Force Work Group. This was initially to include the Board Chairman, President, President-elect and Executive Director, each of whom were then to propose the names of one or more additional individuals to constitute a core committee. A first meeting of members of the core group

was held in Philadelphia in conjunction with the AIA Annual Meetings in early January. Following from there it was determined that discussions should focus on five major areas of concern: I. Publications, II. Development; III. Nominations and Membership; IV. Leadership and Management; and V. Longer Term Initiatives. In early February, after a number of additional general discussion sessions via a series of telephone conferences, Task Force participants were given assignments as "point persons" to carry forward study and consideration for each of these focal areas, and to begin to formulate more specific suggestions and proposals. Point persons for these "TWIGs" (Task Force Work Interest Groups) now include: for Publications, Larry Herr, Eric Meyers and Dick Scheuer; for Development, P.E. MacAllister, Larry Geraty, and Rudy Dornemann; for Nominations and Membership, John Spencer, Tom Schaub and Stuart Swiny; for Leadership and Management, Joe Seger, B. W. Ruffner and Ingrid Wood; and for Long Term Initiatives, Larry Geraty, Larry Herr, Doug Clark, and David McCreery.

Each of these TWIGs has been encouraged to consult freely with other members of the ASOR constitu-

ency in whatever way they might think helpful in carrying forward their efforts, but to reserve dissemination of any specific formulations and suggestions until such time as the Task Force Work Group as a whole can review and discuss them, and then establish due process with regard to how to proceed toward implementation as each case warrants.

The purpose of the Task Force effort is two-fold: first to be responsive to the major areas of concern raised at the Atlanta retreat; and second to provided a forum for candid and open consideration of remedial actions and other initiatives that can help improve functions within the organization. Underlying all is an intention to assist the organization's new leadership team as it works to become established during the summer transition. While each of the TWIGs continues to work diligently and deliberately, there is no fixed timetable for action by them or by the larger committee. However, at least an interim report, and perhaps some specific suggestions, will be presented at the Board Meetings on April 27 in Cambridge.

Joe D. Seger
ASOR President

Lawrence Thomas Geraty grew up as a citizen of the world, as he was part of a Seventh-day Adventist missionary family who lived and worked in China, Burma, Hong Kong, and Lebanon. Dr. Geraty received a rich education by attending schools in China, Hong Kong, Lebanon, England, Germany, France, Israel, California, Maryland, Michigan, and Massachusetts. These experiences set him on a lifelong course committed to the values of diversity.

After completing his undergraduate degree at Pacific Union College, Dr. Geraty graduated from the Theological Seminary at Andrews University following which he served a short term as a pastor in Santa Ana, California. Then accepting an invitation to join the Andrews Theological Seminary faculty, he first went to Harvard University to study Hebrew Bible and biblical archaeology and earned and received with distinction his Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Returning to Andrews Theological Seminary as Professor of Archaeology and History of Antiquity, Dr. Geraty distinguished himself as a teacher and scholar for the next thirteen years, teaching also in Jamaica, Jordan, Trinidad, Costa Rica, Europe, and Australia, and directing a series of major archaeological expeditions to the Middle East, including the Madaba Plains Project in Jordan. During this time he was also the curator of the Horn Archaeological Museum and founding Director of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University.

In his notable scholarly career, Dr. Geraty has received numerous honors, including a Fulbright Fellowship and has served as advisor on archaeology to former Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan. Dr. Geraty has served as president of several scholarly societies; vice president (from 1982 to 2002) of the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan; lectured all over the world and contributed to numerous publications (edited 8 books, contributed to 30, authored



Larry Geraty will assume the Presidency of ASOR on July 1, 2002.

some 50 articles in scholarly journals and hundreds in popular publications).

Adding to his teaching focus, in 1985 Dr. Geraty became president of Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts where he earned the reputation as a progressive academic administrator. Since July 1993 Dr. Geraty has served as president and professor of archeology at La Sierra University in Riverside, California, where he has also become active in the community, serving currently on the boards of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, United Way of the Inland Valleys (2000 Campaign co-chair and now board chair-elect), The Employers Group (vice-chair), Metro Riverside International Cabinet, Mayor's Higher Education/Business Council, Raincross Club (president during 2001-2002), Monday Morning Group, and the Riverside Youth Action Executive Policy Board.

In the year 2000, Dr. Geraty received the P. E. MacAllister Award for Excellence in Field Archeology from the American Schools of Oriental Research, and in 2001, the Charles Elliott Weniger Award for Excellence at Pacific Union College.

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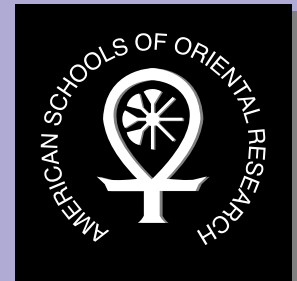
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ASOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TOURS SYRIA EXHIBIT AT THE FERNBANK MUSEUM, ATLANTA

ASOR's Executive Committee held its winter meeting in Atlanta, GA this year, in conjunction with the regional SECSOR meeting and the "Syria: Land of Civilizations" Exhibit at the Fernbank Museum. Organized by long-time ASOR member, Max Miller, the exhibit is a smash hit. Look for a feature on it in the next issue of *Near Eastern Archaeology*.



Rudy Dornemann takes ASOR Chairman of Board, P. E. MacAllister, through the exhibit.



B. W. Ruffner and Julene Miller in front of the funerary bas-reliefs from Palmyra.



Ted Lewis from the University of Georgia was the evening's featured speaker. He stands in front of the Mosaic of Hercules from ancient Emesa (AD 300).

The event was organized as part of ASOR's ongoing Development efforts. One of the highlights of the evening was a lecture by Ted Lewis on "Divine Images in Ancient Syria and Ancient Israel" ASOR thanks Max Miller for his all his work in helping to organize the events of this very successful night.



P. E. MacAllister, Joe Seger, and Rudy Dornemann, in front of a display on "the organization of economy."

Restructuring ASOR's Finances: A Milestone Achieved

For the past two years the ASOR Finance Committee, Treasurer, Executive Director, Director of Publications, accountant, accounting consultant, and auditor have been reporting that they are working hard on restructuring our financial procedures. At long last that effort is bearing fruit. We have finally reached a major plateau! A large part of our efforts have been devoted to altering our financial accounting system to report on an accrual rather than a cash basis, following the accounting practices generally used by non-profit organizations. Though the transition has taken longer than anticipated, we have now fully

transferred to this new system. We would like to thank three people particularly for their sustained effort in this undertaking: Ingrid Wood, Jerry Vincent and Phil Dawicki.

Many of our funds require specific accounts, and in particular, funds raised for our Torch Campaign must be recorded in detail and then distributed between various current and upcoming programs. Several years ago we consolidated our banking and investments from multiple institutions into one company, SalomonSmith- Barney, and this has helped us greatly in managing our various accounts and funds. We are now better able to track our program income and expenses, for example, activities within CAMP and CAP, discretely. Since taking over the financial reporting on the books and journals from Scholars Press, we have worked to revise our accounting practices to track subscription and membership income more precisely and we have now switched to accounting for book production on a cost of goods sold basis. Both of these innovations have brought us in line with standard accounting procedures in nonprofit publishing.

The reworking of our accounting procedures provided a solid basis for the completion of our FY2001 audit and we

are now refining these procedures for the current FY2002. Financial reports presented at a recent Executive Committee meeting summarized the first half of this fiscal year, were based on the new accounting system. We will continue to refine our procedures and present the third quarter report to the Board of Trustees in April. Working with an accrual system requires a different mindset and we are altering the format of reports to be presented to committees, Board and membership so that they are understandable as well as accurate. Our revised financial system will show us our current activity within each account and track the progress of our Endowment Campaign, Publications, and all operations accurately and clearly. New quarterly reports will describe the basic revenues, expenses and cash flow in unrestricted, temporarily restricted and permanently restricted categories, as is done for our audit. Our system will provide clearer information on which to create and maintain our budgets and future audits will become easier to complete. Look for a financial statement based on these new procedures at our Members' Meeting in November.

Rudy Dornemann
ASOR Executive Director

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2001

SUPPORT	
Contributions	410,911
Grants	65,312
REVENUES	
Publications	232,576
Membership	110,376
Annual Meeting	30,583
In-kind rent contrib.	22,500
Royalty income	3,836
Investment income	52,448
Realized loss on sale of investments	(50,261)
Unrealized loss on investments	(78,526)
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUES	799,755
EXPENSES	
Total Program Services	539,949
Management and general	170,331
Fundraising	39,809
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 49,666

The information provided here is based on the ASOR audit for FY2001. Copies of the full audit are available from ASOR's administrative offices.

SAUDI ARABIA INITIATIVE

As a part of ASOR's efforts to create a presence for American archaeology in Saudi Arabia, from March 7-19, David Graf of the University of Miami conducted an epigraphic expedition to the Hijaz of Saudi Arabia where he recorded about 40 new Nabataean Aramaic inscriptions with Dr. Hussein Abu al-Hassan in Riyadh. In addition, he made a tour of archaeological sites in the Hijaz, including Mada' in Salih, Al-'Ula, Tayma', and Tabuk, including Qurayyah, al-Bad' (Mugha'r Shuayb), and Ayn Una, allegedly the Nabataean-Roman port of Leuke Kome. The tour was arranged by Dr. Sa'ad Rashid, the Ministry Director of Antiquities and Museums. As a consultant, Dr. Graf made an assessment of the archaeological heritage in Saudi Arabia and made recommendations for future excavations and archaeological projects. In heading ASOR's Saudi Arabia Committee, Dr. Graf hopes that ASOR will be able to launch an archaeological project in the Kingdom in the near future.

Reports from ASOR's Committees

Committee on Archaeological Policy

The following report comprises highlights from a recent report to the Executive Committee of ASOR presented by David W. McCreery, CAP Chair.

Since the November 2001 ASOR Meetings in Broomfield, CO, CAP activity has included the approval of one new fieldwork project, bringing to 65 the number of ASOR/CAP affiliated projects (up from 63 last year). Several old projects were completed this year and are therefore off the books and several new projects were approved for affiliation. The Committee has sent letters to the Presidents, Deans, and/or Chairs of institutions/departments who oversee the work of our project directors. The letters informed these officials of CAP's action in affiliating said projects and urged them to continue their institution's support of the CAP affiliated project director. Project directors continue to indicate that these letters are very helpful and the Committee has heard back from several presidents, deans and other administrators, indicating they appreciate knowing about CAP's actions and ASOR's support of their faculty member(s).

A subcommittee has been constituted to evaluate the Harris Grants. Interest income from the Harris foundation is down substantially this year. We expect to make up the shortfall from the Torch Campaign with funds designated for CAP, so that we should still be able to award our usual total of \$5,000-\$6,000 in grants this year. All Harris and Torch Grant applications are now being submitted electronically and the deliberations of the subcommittee will be conducted via email and phone calls in order to cut cost and improve efficiency.

For an update on the Saudi Arabia initiative, see page 3.

The future of CAP will be determined by the membership of the committee. With this in mind, CAP Chair Dave McCreery has been conscious of trying to constitute the committee to reflect the current ASOR membership as well as reflecting what we hope to be in the future. This means trying to maintain on the committee some ASOR veterans, (who have the valuable asset of 'institutional memory'), while at the same time bringing new blood into the committee. It also means ensuring that our U.S. and Canadian constituency, and those who work in various regions (Israel, Cyprus and Arab countries) are fairly represented.

Three new members of CAP will assume their duties on July 1, 2002. These are Leigh-Ann Bedal, David Graf and Lee Maxwell. Their field work is focused on Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Syria respectively. All of these nominees have been involved in ASOR affiliated projects for years but none have ever served on an ASOR committee.

There will be no CAP Tour this year due to the budget shortfall as well as CAP's current re-evaluation of the effectiveness and usefulness of these tours.

Committee on the Annual Meeting and Program

The following report comprises highlights from a recent report to the Executive Committee of ASOR presented by Douglas Clark, CAMP Chair, and members of the committee

Public Outreach

The Friday evening public lecture at this year's annual meeting in Toronto will focus on traveling the Holy Land in conversation with archaeologists. We are still working to conclude arrangements with one or two popular

writers who may have benefited considerably from working with ASOR members and whose books are well known.

The Public Lecture continues to meet with marginal success. The crowd is normally good, but with limited participation from the public. Thus, we are serving the membership, but must find ways to broaden this outreach to include the wider public. Improved publicity is the most important means of achieving this.

Lecture Series Committee

In Boulder we established a lecture series committee comprising Ann Killebrew (Chair), Tammi Schneider, Steve Ortiz, Oded Borowski, B.W. Ruffner, Andy Vaughn, Bob and Jane Grutz (with Britt Hartenberger to serve as liaison with the Boston Office).

We are currently planning two lectures. We continue to look for ways to ensure adequate publicity of the lectures we sponsor, including use of BAS mailing labels (as generously offered by Hershel Shanks) and utilizing the professional publicity skills of Bob and Jane Grutz.

Growing out of the generosity of a member of the Board, there is seed money of \$2,000 for each of the next two years to help get the Lecture Series off the ground. Making it self-sustaining is our goal.

Regional ASOR Societies

In Boulder we set up an *ad hoc* committee to work on assessing what we know about regional ASOR groups—how they are constituted, how they interface with associated groups (mostly SBL), what we can learn from each other, how these can affect ASOR at large, and where we should go from here. Suzanne Richard chairs this committee and has already amassed a great deal of information that will provide the basis for ongoing

discussions. Committee members communicate regularly via email and will meet each autumn at the Annual Meeting until the regional representatives themselves become an informal advisory group for regional activities. As we have discovered thus far, all regional SBL groups have indicated a great deal of interest in some kind of ASOR affiliation. All agree it would enhance their programs and add to the number of participants. It is also clear that the regional representatives are very happy to hear that ASOR is becoming involved in regional societies. There is definitely a need for coordination and information sharing.

Annual Meeting 2001 Evaluation

The evaluation of the 2001 Annual Meeting in Boulder, floated in December via the ASOR-List, resulted in 100 responses. The results have been tabulated and will be presented more in detail in the future. A summary reveals the following:

- one third of respondents did not attend the Annual Meeting, citing reasons of costs, distance, conflicting conferences, too much time away from classes/work for both ASOR and other conventions, especially SBL
- extremely positive ratings (nearly or over 8 on a 10-point scale) for overall quality, quality of sessions, quality of hotel for sleeping and meeting rooms
- low rating on location of hotel (also with the highest Standard Deviation figure)
- rich and varied comments which we need to assess and interpret

This exercise has proven extremely insightful and we can learn a great deal from the survey as we plan for the future.

Annual Meeting 2004 and Beyond

It will soon be time to make some decisions about venues and dates for the next three to five years. Doug Clark, CAMP Chair will be recommending that ASOR maintain the

current schedule of meeting Wednesday through Saturday of the week preceding the SBL Annual Meeting in the same general location. The reasons involve maintaining ASOR's identity as a viable, independent scholarly organization, maintaining ties with SBL while continuing to branch out across the geography, disciplines, research designs, theoretical issues and chronological framework of the study of the ancient Near East now represented in the ASOR Annual Meeting menu and to foster what seem to be quite successful annual meetings.

ASOR/SBL Cooperative Endeavors

The Committee is currently in conversation with Kent Richards, Executive Director of SBL, about some jointly sponsored initiatives between ASOR and SBL. The basic thrust of the proposal is to consider creating a three-day window of opportunity for attendees of the two annual meetings to benefit from the other's sessions. We are looking to assist in the areas of overlapping interests among a large segment of ASOR and SBL members, while at the same time fostering the rich and varied interests of all ASOR members.

Committee on Publications

Book sales

Sales this year have been very strong. A record "take" at the November meeting was only the beginning. Our overseas book sales through Oxbow Books have begun to grow as well. Overseas sales in the 2nd quarter showed a 100% increase compared with the same period last year, helped no doubt by the appearance of two new titles. We are also averaging over \$2700 per month in back-title sales alone. David Brown/Oxbow continue to do an excellent job for us.

Results of electronic posting of the full text of paperback titles are very positive. Sales have seen a resurgence

due to the postings. Partial postings of other ASOR titles are also gradually being made available on the publications web site (www.asor.org/pubs/).

Book production status

Since July, four new titles have appeared, most recently Stuart Swiny's *The Earliest Prehistory of Cyprus*.

Ted Campbell's *Shechem III*, and a reprint edition of Oded Borowski's, *Agriculture in Iron Age Israel* are about to go to press.

Nancy Serwint and Diane Bolger's edited volume *Engendering Aphrodite*, will appear shortly thereafter.

AASOR 56 will include two manuscripts, one by Robert Miller (Gazeteer), and the other a preliminary report by Rudy Dornemann on the Qarqur excavations. AASOR 57, a collection of articles on Anatolian archaeology, is in proofs. Both Annals will appear during the summer.

In addition, numerous titles are under consideration for publication in 2003 and beyond.

Journals

BASOR, *JCS* and *NEA* continue to thrive. In particular, a recent issue of *BASOR* devoted to Petra has received rave reviews. *NEA*'s editorial transition is now complete and Ted Lewis' debut issue (vol. 64/3) will be appearing in your mailboxes in a few weeks.

Web page redesign

The publications web pages have been redesigned with the help of the new *NEA* art director, Monica McLeod. The pages include new categories designed to enhance sales and make us more attractive to casual visitors to the sight. Among the highlights, we have added an "educational resources" page, which will draw attention to the many articles and books appropriate for the classroom or as a reference for travel abroad. There is also an online catalog and a page called e-ASOR, which includes not only electronic materials posted by



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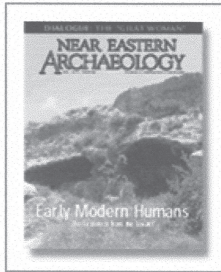
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ASOR, but also tells visitors how to find our publications electronically by directing them to the various vendors with whom we have electronic distribution agreements. This page also links to the ETANA project web page and thus advertise our connection with that project. In addition, *NEA*, *JCS* and *BASOR* subscribers are now able to renew electronically! And don't forget to order your *NEA* t-shirts online!

ETANA Project

The principles of agreement between ETANA and ASOR have moved ahead. The project includes plans for a DigBase and DigKit. These projects will be of considerable interest to ASOR members. For more information, visit the ETANA website at www.etana.org.

ASOR tours

As mandated by the Board of Trustees we have obtained counsel's opinion as to the viability of ASOR organizing tours to the Middle East.

The new Publications web page. Check us out at www.asor.org/pubs/

Jim Joseph at Arnold and Porter responded positively to the proposal as described but has left a decision on the question of unrelated business income to ASOR's auditor who is less generous on the assessment. A determination from the IRS is being sought by a subcommittee (Al Leonard, B. W. Ruffner and Chris Madell) and they hope to have a positive "determination" by the Spring Trustees' meeting.

COP Chair Transition

On July 1, Larry Herr will replace outgoing COP Chair, Al Leonard. In anticipation, a "marathon" six-hour meeting of the Committee is planned for April, in conjunction with the Spring meeting of the ASOR Board of Trustees. Among the issues to be tackled are the location of the Publications office, various matters related to electronic publishing, and the Publications budget for 2003.

An ASOR Mosaic

A Centennial History of the American Schools of Oriental Research

Joe D. Seger, editor

Contributing authors:
Jeffrey A. Blakely
Nancy Lapp
Eric Meyers
Joe D. Seger
Stuart Swiny

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A. D. Tushingham

We are saddened to report the passing of A. Douglas Tushingham on February 27, after a long, successful and exciting career in archaeology. Dr. Tushingham was Director of the Albright Institute in Jerusalem from 1952-53. He worked with Kathleen Kenyon as associate director of the excavations at Jericho in the early 1950s, and in the 1960s, at the site of the City of David in Jerusalem. Dr. Tushingham was also chief archaeologist of the Royal Ontario Museum for 27 years. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Tushingham.

THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES invites nominations for the position of President (Chief Executive Officer), duties to begin in 2003. A well-established scholar-teacher in higher education, with pertinent leadership and administrative experience, a broad awareness of the conditions shaping scholarship and education, and a willingness to undertake fund-raising activities, is sought.

A non-profit organization founded in 1919 whose headquarters are in New York City, ACLS is a federation of 64 national learned organizations in the humanities and social sciences and is the preeminent private humanities organization in the U.S. The purpose of the Council, as set forth in its constitution, is "the advancement of humanistic studies in all fields of learning in the humanities and social sciences and the maintenance and strengthening of relations among national societies devoted to such studies."

The review of nominations and applications will begin on May 15 and will continue until the position is filled. Letters of nomination or application should be mailed to Professors Neil Rudenstine and Sandra Barnes, Search Committee Co-Chairs, American Council of Learned Societies, 228 East 45th Street, New York, New York 10017; www.acls.org.

ACLS is an equal opportunity employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY of the University of Cyprus announces a new position at the rank of Lecturer or Assistant Professor in Ancient History. For all academic ranks, an earned doctorate from a recognized University is required. The languages of instruction are Greek and Turkish. For

this position knowledge of Greek is necessary. Holding a citizenship of the Republic of Cyprus is not a requirement. Interested individuals must submit the following items by Friday 10th of May 2002:

- I A letter stating the academic rank or ranks for which the applicant is interested in, the field or fields of study and the date when he/she may be able to assume duties in the event of selection.
- II A Curriculum Vitae (6 copies).
- III A brief summary of previous work and a statement of plans for future research (up to 1500 words - 6 copies).
- IV A list of publications (6 copies).
- V Copies of the three most representative publications (6 copies).
- VI Copies of degree certificates.

In addition, the applicants must ask three academic referees to send letters of recommendation directly to the University; the names and addresses of these referees must be submitted with the application. Additional confidential information may be sought. The letters of recommendation must reach the University by Friday 10th of May 2002.

The Curriculum Vitae and the statement of previous work and plans should be written in Greek or Turkish and in one international language, preferably English.

Applications, other documents and reference letters submitted in the past will not be considered and must be re-submitted. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The above must be delivered to the University by 2 pm Friday 10th of May 2002, at the following address: The Registrar, University of Cyprus, P. O. Box 20537, CY 1678 Nicosia, CYPRUS. Tel: 357 22 892000 Fax: 357 22 892100

For more information the office of the Registrar or the Department of History and Archaeology may be contacted.

ITALIAN MISSION TO OMAN excavation and restoration of Khor Rori in the Dhofar governorate <<http://imto.humnet.unipi.it>>. The main goal of the expedition of the University of Pisa - Italian Mission to Oman (IMTO), directed by Alessandra Avanzini - is the study of the history of the region of Khor Rori and of its ancient port of Sumhuram. Khor Rori is forty kilometres to the east of Salalah, one of the most important city in the Dhofar region.

THE TOPIC ON NPR'S "TALK OF THE NATION" with Neal Conan for Tuesday, March 19, was "Biblical Archaeology," with guests Bruce Feiler, Harold Kushner, and Jonathan Reed (see below for details).

Passover and Easter, two of the most important holidays to Jews and Christians, are right around the corner. On the next Talk of the Nation, we'll take a look at the latest advances in biblical archeology. Is the fact that Moses existed or not important to you? Does it help your faith to believe that your religion is based on scientific fact? How faith and fact intersect. Join Neal Conan on Talk of the Nation from NPR news.

For those interested in listening to the show, it may be accessed at:

<http://search.npr.org/cf/cmn/cmnpd01fm.cfm?PrgDate=03/19/2002&PrgID=5>

or go to: <http://www.npr.org/programs/totn/>, click on "previous shows," then "March 2002," then "March 19."

Guests:
Bruce Feiler
Rabbi Harold Kushner
Jonathan Reed

HEADLINES

Temple reveals secrets of the one God

*excerpted from a story by
Stephanie Saldana
Daily Star Staff*

In a remote corner of Jordan, archaeologists have uncovered a room that may transform the way we think about God. Its massive stones still clinging to the damp hills of the Jordan River Valley, the Migdol Temple at first appears to be little more than an ancient network of fortified walls. Yet when Jordanian and Australian archaeologists working at the site of ancient Pella began piecing it together in 1997, it didn't take them long to realize that they were reconstructing something extraordinary: a 3,600-year-old textbook in stone. The Migdol Temple charts within a single room one of the most important events in human history: the transition from polytheism to the belief in one God.

Continuously in use from 1650 BC to 850 BC, the Migdol Temple records changing cult practices during the Canaanite Hyksos ascendancy, then again during the Egyptian New Kingdom Empire, the Philistine Era, and the Age of the Local Kingdoms.

Stephen Bourke, the University of Sydney archaeologist who has led the Pella excavations since 1992, explains that ... the local religious history in the Migdol Temple just so happens to have occurred at the same time and in the same region as the founding of religious monotheism recorded in the Old Testament. The Migdol Temple was in use during the arrival of the Israelites and the establishment of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah.

During the approximately 800 years of its occupation, those who used the Migdol Temple slowly changed their Bronze Age polytheistic beliefs into Iron Age henotheistic beliefs, a period during which officials allowed communities to believe in more than one god, but encouraged them to concen-

CALL FOR PAPERS: Ancient Studies; New Technology II: The World Wide Web and Scholarship in Ancient, Byzantine, and Medieval Studies. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, December 6-8, 2002. Scholarly Communication Center, Alexander Library, College Avenue Campus, Rutgers University. Classical, Medieval, and Byzantine scholars long have relied on printed media to disseminate their research. In the last two decades, however, the Internet and the World Wide Web have made new forms of publication possible. Electronic journals now provide wide audiences with primary materials, scholarly studies, and access to other resources. Search engines like Argos have been developed to help navigate the rapidly multiplying resources available via this new medium. In other ways the Internet is just beginning to fulfill its scholarly promise. Potential participants in this conference are encouraged to use their imaginations in considering different ways in which the WEB can help to promote ancient and medieval studies. Presentations of both a theoretical nature and a practical, "how-to", nature are welcome. Just some of the topics on which abstracts are invited include the following: 1. Electronic publication; Copyright issues. 2. Tenure/Promotion; At what point does a Web Site become scholarship? 3. Reference WEB sites. 4. Scholarly WEB sites. 5. Standards; The future of various mark-up styles; Archiving and the issue of the "permanence" of web publications and sites; Dealing with dead-end URL's; Peer review of web resources. 6. Security. 7. Coordination of effort. 8. Promotion. 9. Communication. 10. Research: Navigation and Search Engines. 11. Technology. 12. Authoring. 13. Education. 14. Access: Who is our audience. 15. Philosophical issues: "Open Source" philosophy; Whither the WEB?; The significance of the "Gift Economy" vs. Commercial use of the WEB. 16. Open source. How do open source tools facilitate the use of the web for scholars?

Those interested in participating should send a 300-word electronic abstract of a proposed 20-minute presentation to Ralph Mathisen, Program Chair, at ralph.w.mathisen@sc.edu (Department of History, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208). Abstracts should indicate clearly the nature of the problem or issue being addressed, the methods for doing so, and the current status of the project. If a web site is being discussed, please include a URL. Roundtable and panel proposals also are welcome. Deadline for submissions is May 15, 2002. Abstracts will be made available on the Web in advance of the conference. Information regarding Local Arrangements is available from Conference Convener Brian Hancock, bhancock@harvest.rutgers.edu (snail mail: Humanities Librarian, Coordinator for CETH, Alexander Library, Rutgers University Libraries, 169 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1163). For conference background and philosophy, contact Michael Dimaio (mdimaio@ids.net). Conference Web Site: tabula.rutgers.edu/conferences/ancient_studies2002.

trate their veneration on one god over all others.

Known as state monotheism, the most famous example of this change in belief is that of Yahweh in Israel. But according to Bourke, archaeological evidence is revealing that this new emphasis on one god was not reserved for the Israelites, but occurred simultaneously in several nation states throughout the Middle East, with Yahweh in Israel, Hadad in Damascus, Milkom in Amman, Chemos in Moab

and Qos in Edom. The newest finds at the Migdol Temple suggest that the region had its own distinct form of monotheism, and that monotheism arose in several areas of the Middle East at once in order to unify small nation-states. The Migdol Pella Temple evidence suggests that the pathway to national consciousness occurs in many different centers at around the same time in effectively the same way, said Bourke.

Excavations at Saar unearth Bahrain's rich past

*excerpted from a story by
Latheef Farouk*

Complete story available at www.gulf-news.com/Articles/news.asp?ArticleID=42394

Saar, in the northwest of Bahrain, holds an important place in the Dilmun civilisation dating back to 2000 BC. Excavations here have produced the largest single corpus of Bronze Age seals and artifacts found in Bahrain. The material forms a unique record of the art of the period and provides valuable information about the commercial activities of the inhabitants of Saar.

The Dilmun settlement and the temple found at this site constitute the principal archaeological discovery in Bahrain during the past decade.

In her book *Early Dilmun Seals from Saar: Art and Commerce in Bronze*

Age Bahrain, Harriet Crawford, a former director of the London Bahrain Archaeological Expedition, sheds light on the social and economic aspects of Dilmun.

In her introduction, Crawford pointed out that "one of the major powers in the Gulf in the late third and early second millennium BC was known in the cuneiform record as Dilmun, a land with the dual character of a mythological country which was the home of the Sumerian Noah, Ziusudra and a thriving commercial centre.

Texts and archaeology together show that by the late third millennium BC the real Dilmun was centred on the island of Bahrain. Thanks to recent work by scholars from Bahrain and other countries, the real Dilmun has begun to emerge from the mists of mythology and can now take its place as a vital entrepot in the network of

trade routes which crisscrossed the ancient Near East at this period.

According to Crawford, a great deal of information is available on the international trade which underpinned the economy of Dilmun, thanks largely to the cuneiform texts found in Mesopotamia, and the picture painted was supported by the archaeological evidence from the Bahrain islands.

Their most notable archaeological features in the 19th century AD when the first European visitors recorded their impressions of the island were the great fields of burial. Sadly, these have been extensively robbed over the centuries, but where their contents survive, and they paint the same picture of a country with wide-ranging contacts.

The so called Royal Graves at A'ali in particular yielded tantalising remains of a sophisticated material culture using a wide range of imported goods and materials which included fragments of ivory carvings from pieces of furniture as well as gold jewellery and copper weapons.

According to her findings, seal ownership was widely spread throughout the community.

It also seems probable that both men and women were engaged in small-scale economic activity. But there is no evidence for the large-scale manufacture of commodities within the settlement, in spite of the presence of a single lime kiln, which does not exclude the possibility that some of the inhabitants were involved in the domestic production of staples such as textiles which were then exchanged with their neighbours.

"The society at Saar seems to have been an egalitarian and semi-independent one, as there is no evidence for a bureaucracy or for administrative procedures in place at the site, suggesting that if there was a central authority, its rule was not an oppressive one.

Some sort of central authority on the island seem probable and Saar was not an isolated community as it seems to have been part of a wider commercial system.

Academic armies come to blows in battle of Troy

*excerpted from a story by
Philip Howard*

Complete story available at
www.thetimes.co.uk/newspaper/0,,170-218264,00.html

A NEW Trojan war only slightly less vicious than the original has broken out among archaeologists over the size of the fabled city of Homers Iliad.

Such are the passions raised that when the two armies of academics met in Germany last week to resolve their differences, their symposium ended in an unseemly bout of fisticuffs. This new battle for Troy is over the excavations at Hisarlik conducted since 1988 by an international team led by Manfred Korfmann of Tübingen University.

One army, led by Professor Korfmann, believes that the city was a sprawling, metropolitan and trading settlement, with a citadel and a royal palace. The other side argues that the archaeological discoveries at Hisarlik from 1300 to 1200 BC reveal Troy to have been a trivial nest of pirates at the margin of civilisation.

Korfmanns research and claims have been disparaged by his colleague at Tübingen, the ancient historian Professor Frank Kolb, and Dieter Hertel, Professor of Classical Archaeology at Munich University.

The charges focus partly on Korfmanns excavations in pursuit of the lower city (the slums outside the citadel) and partly on his imaginative and populist computer-generated record of the area.

Korfmann is accused of exaggeration to the point of falsification and charlatanism. He has been compared (unfavourably) with the batty Erich von Daniken.

Accordingly, last weekend Tübingen University summoned a scientific symposium [made of delegates from various academic institutions] on the meaning of Troja in the late Bronze Age. Its goal was to debate the charges levelled by Professor Kolb against Professor Korfmann.

Professor Kolb was invited to retract his charges and apologise. But the proper academic atmosphere broke down. While the final session was on air, fisticuffs broke out.

C O N F E R E N C E C A L E N D A R

April 26–28, 2002

2nd MIT Conference on Technology, Archaeology, and the Deep Sea.
Contact: web.mit.edu/sts/deeparch.

May 4–5, 2002

Pacific Northwest Region Meeting. University of Oregon in Eugene, OR. Contact: www.pnw-aarsbl.org/. Regional Coordinator: Linda Schearing, e-mail: schearing@gonzaga.edu.

May 29–June 1, 2002

The Mediterranean Studies Associations 5th annual International Congress, "**Iberia and the Mediterranean.**" Universidad de Granada, Granada, Spain. Papers and sessions on all subjects relating to the Mediterranean region and Mediterranean cultures around the Mediterranean. Contact: msa@umassd.edu; www.mediterraneanstudies.org; www2.h-net.msu.edu/announce/show.cgi?ID=1

June 19–22, 2002

The American Theological Library Association. Touchstone Energy (Place in St. Paul, MN). The conference will feature workshops, papers, roundtable discussions, and exhibits. A plenary session on theology and the arts will be presented by Wilson Yates, President of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities; Professor of Religion, Society and the Arts; and editor of ARTS: The Arts in Theological and Religious Studies. The conference is open to non-ATLA member registrants. For more information and to register, please see ATLA's conference pages at www.atla.com/member/conference.

July 1–4, 2002

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

July 6–7, 2002

What about the Economy? Methods and Perspectives for a New Economic History of the Ancient World. Wolfson College, Cambridge, England. Papers cover various periods of the ancient world, but the focus of the whole conference is methodology, how to write innovative and meaningful economic history under the specific constraints of preindustrial societies which leave only limited source material. Contact: [/br.geocities.com/hgz1000/](http://br.geocities.com/hgz1000/)

July 19–22, 2002

SBL International Meeting. Berlin, Germany. Contact: www.sbl-site.org/Congresses/IM/2002/2002_info.html.

September 1–6, 2002

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

September 8–13, 2002

First World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES), Mainz, Germany. Panel on the archaeology of the Arabian Peninsula. Contact: Abdullah Alsharekh, Ph.D. Email: asharekh@ksu.edu.sa.

November 20–23, 2002

American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting. Marriott Eaton Centre. Toronto, Ontario. Contact: www.asor.org/AM/am.htm.

November 20–24, 2002

American Anthropological Association. Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, LA. Contact: www.aaanet.org/mtgs/mtgs.htm.

November 23–26, 2002

Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting. Toronto, Ontario. Contact: www.sbl-site.org/Congresses/.

December 6–8, 2002

Ancient Studies; New Technology II: The World Wide Web and Scholarship in Ancient, Byzantine, and Medieval Studies. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Scholarly Communication Center, Alexander Library, College Avenue Campus, Rutgers University. Contact: Ralph Mathisen, Program Chair, ralph.w.mathisen@sc.edu. Department of History, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.

December 14–16, 2002

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

January 3–6, 2003

104th Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America. New Orleans, Louisiana. Contact: www.archaeological.org/Annual_Meeting/Annual_Meeting.html

March 2003

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

March 28–31, 2003

American Oriental Society Annual Meeting. DoubleTree, Nashville, TN. Contact: www.umich.edu/~aos/

April 3–6, 2003

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

August 23–26, 2003

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

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