



They Also Dug! Archaeologist's Wives and Their Stories

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They Also Dug!

Archaeologists' Wives and Their Stories

by Norma Dever

“What we need most of all is a wife.”

I first heard this statement some forty years ago from the well-known classical archaeologists Saul and Gladys Weinberg when Saul was Archaeological Director of the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. As an academic couple, they appreciated how difficult it was to do everything on a dig, and wished they had a “wife” to handle all the non-academic excavation responsibilities. In addition, in those early days of co-ed excavation, directors’ wives were also burdened with the roles of house-mother and chaperone. Accordingly, Albright advised in his *Archaeology of Palestine* that “where expeditions are mixed it is highly desirable to have the Director’s wife present, both to provide a feminine social arbiter and to avert scandal.”¹

I have spent many years in the role of Director’s wife and, during this time, I was able to get to know other women in the same position. The achievements of many famous male archaeologists in the ancient Near East have depended a great deal on their wives’ contributions to their work, which have gone largely unacknowledged, until now.

Famous Women—Sophie Schliemann and Agatha Christie

Sophie Schliemann’s face is more recognizable than her contribution to Schliemann’s archaeological work. A



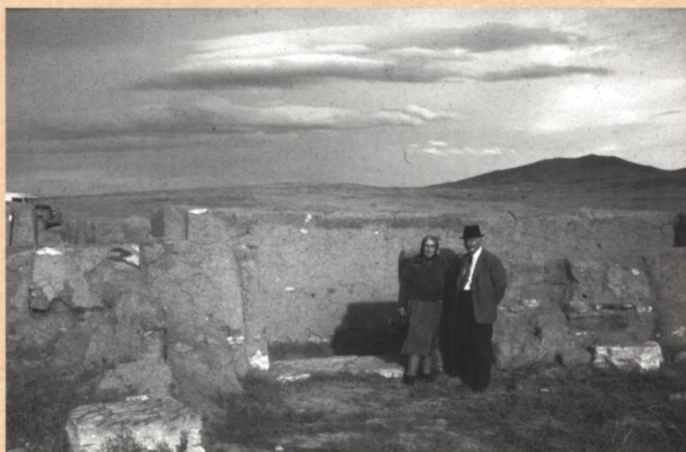
This photo of Sophie Schliemann wearing “the gold of Troy” has made her a familiar face in the world of archaeology. Reportedly, Schliemann decorated his beautiful wife with these treasures almost immediately after finding them. Sophie and her relatives are credited with smuggling the jewelry out of Turkey. *Photo courtesy of the Gennadius Library, Athens.*

stunningly beautiful Greek woman, Sophie is principally remembered today for serving as a “model” for displaying her husband’s more spectacular finds—but she might have played a more active role than that in retrieving the ancient treasures of Troy.

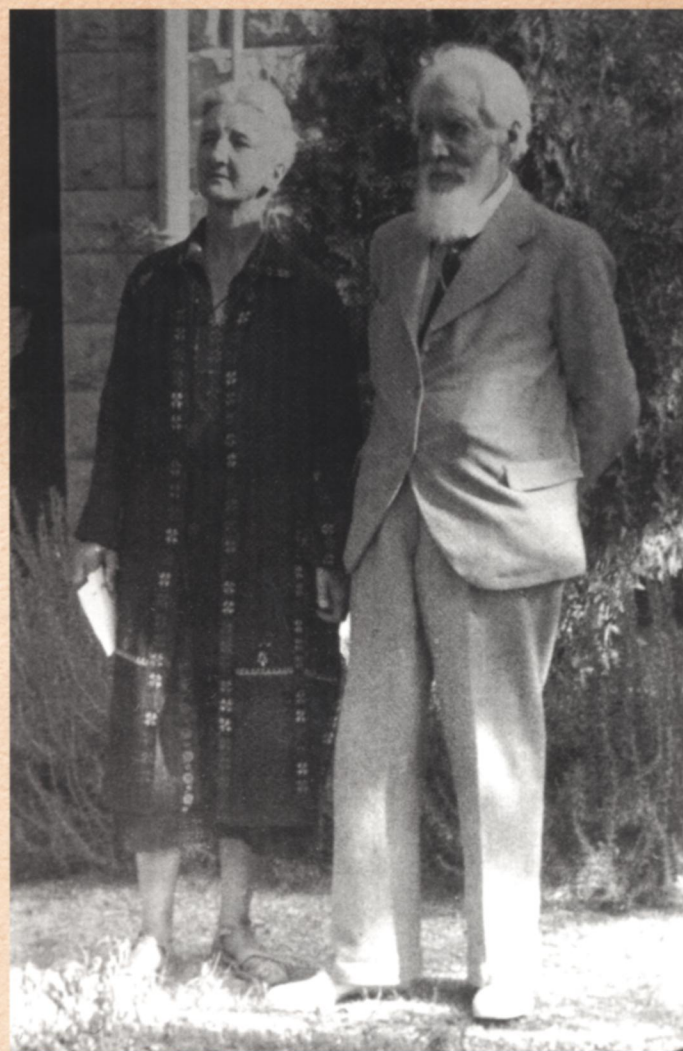
She married Heinrich Schliemann, who was already an established archaeologist, in 1869. Schliemann was a wealthy man, and he used his great resources to look for Homer’s Troy, a task that soon absorbed Sophie as well. The day before the last dirt was to be removed at Troy, Heinrich was accompanied by his wife, when he saw gold. He seized her arm and said, “Get your red shawl,” which he proceeded to fill with gold that he thought was Priam’s. The Schliemanns took the gold to their hut and spread it out, and it was then that he adorned his wife with his discovery. Aided by his wife’s relatives, they smuggled the gold out of the country to Athens. According to C. W. Ceram, Sophie continued to work with her husband in Mycenae, digging with a pocket knife for almost a month, to help him dig up the famous gold masks, as well as other more mundane objects.²

Recently, it has been suggested that much of Schliemann’s account was fictitious and that Sophie was in Athens the day that “Priam’s treasure” was discovered.³ Although the truth may never be known, it is clear that Sophie provided much of the inspiration for her husband’s more spectacular archaeological triumphs.

In contrast to the enigmatic Sophie, Agatha Christie was an archaeologist’s wife whose renown exceeded her husband’s when they met. Agatha ran across Sir Max Mallowan at Ur in 1928, and within three years they married, when Agatha was forty years old. Agatha spent three or four months at a time on digs in Syria and Iraq, where she washed pottery, took



Agatha Christie met Sir Max Mallowan at Ur in 1928 and within three years they married, when Agatha was forty. Agatha spent three or four months at a time on digs in Syria and Iraq where she washed pottery, took photographs, and worked on her mystery novels. Agatha Christie and Max Mallowan posed for this photo in the late 1960s. Photo by David Stronach.



Lady Hilda and Sir Flinders Petrie were at the Albright Institute when this photo was taken. Hilda Petrie became famous at the Institute for refusing to throw food away and hoarding sugar. Photo by Victor Gollancz Ltd.

photographs, and worked on her mystery novels. It is said that when Mallowan asked her if she minded that he spent his time “digging up the dead,” she replied, “Not at all, I adore corpses and stiff.”⁴ Famously, Mallowan also quoted her as saying that “an archaeologist is the best husband any woman can have; the older she gets, the more interested he is in her.”⁵ But she never admitted to having said that herself.

Agatha loved Ur, she tells, and the ancient sites of Nineveh and Nimrud in Iraq and Chagar Bazar and Tell Brak in Syria. She shopped in the bazaars for Persian rugs, bedspreads, furniture, and ornaments, which she took back to England. At Chagar Bazar, Agatha was responsible for the food for the expedition, even for cooking. Her mystery novels—including *Appointment with Death* and *Murder in Mesopotamia*—give much of the flavor of the Middle East of her time.

The Early Days—the Petries and the Albrights

A woman whose labor unquestionably contributed to archaeology is the indomitable Lady Hilda Petrie. Acknowledging this, Sir Flinders Petrie’s dedicated his book *Seventy Years in Archaeology*, “To my wife on whose toil most of my work has depended.”⁶ Petrie noticed Hilda for the first time when she was a young woman (he was 42 at the time) at University College, London, where she was studying with the famous artist Henry Holiday. They were attracted to each other and talked about going to Egypt, and for a year thereafter he sent his journals to her. In 1897 they married, spending their honeymoon in Egypt.

He wrote later about Hilda’s work that “I will only say that it was entirely due to my wife that the resources of the British School were raised, to enable work to be carried on by me and our students.”⁷ Hilda drew many of his plates and plans for publication and was the chief manager of Petrie’s excavations, paying hundreds of workers at Abydos and other Egyptian

sites. She also copied two thousand signs in the cemetery of Denderah.

In 1935, the Petries moved into the American School of Oriental Research, which is now the Albright Institute in Jerusalem, where they lived until 1942 when Sir Flinders died. It seems that Hilda’s training in Egypt, as the one individual responsible for controlling the purse-strings of her husband’s excavations, stayed with her. The long-term cook of the American School in Jerusalem, Omar Jibril, said that Lady Petrie would keep canned foods in the back until they spoiled and exploded and that she hoarded sugar by taking it from the dining room.⁸ She was Petrie’s loyal companion to the end.

When William Foxwell Albright heard Ruth Norton read a paper on “The Life-Index in Hindu Fiction” at the American Oriental Society meetings in Philadelphia, he became interested in her, mentioning to his mother her intellect, attractiveness, good upbringing and vivaciousness. Ruth was two years away



William Dever took this photo of Ruth Albright in 1973, when she was visiting the Institute in Jerusalem that had only recently been named after her deceased husband. Ruth Albright's primary role was taking care of William, shielding him from the mundane facts of life, and raising their sons. Photo by William G. Dever.

from getting her Ph.D. in Sanskrit at Johns Hopkins, when she came to Jerusalem to marry William at the St. George's school in 1921. In 1925, the Albrights moved into a wing of the American School—alternating their living quarters between Jerusalem and Baltimore. They had two sons born in each city.

Ruth Albright's primary role was taking care of William (who did not live in the real world) raising their sons, and shielding him from the mundane facts of life. After he died, Mrs. Albright came to visit the Jerusalem school in 1972 and told us wonderful stories of her life with him. A beautiful Bezalel silver box was given to the Albrights by the Palestine Oriental Society when they left Jerusalem in 1935, and Mrs. Albright brought it back to the Jerusalem school. During that visit, she told us that she had, characteristically, protected William from visitors who wanted to see him in his last days because she couldn't let them see William when he was ill. She also said Albright had two categories for Hopkins' Ph.D.s, one for degrees that were real—namely those for his students—and one for doctorates received under the direction of "others." On one of his last lucid days, while Ruth was with him in the hospital, she told us that he said, "But yours wasn't a real Ph.D., was it?"⁹

American Archaeological Couples

Unlike some other archaeologists' wives, Emily Wright (the wife of G. Ernest Wright) was not comfortable in field archaeology. She did work with Ernest in founding and producing this journal under its original title, *The Biblical Archaeologist*, which was launched in 1938 but, as far as I know, Emily did not travel to the Near East with Ernest until 1964, when she came to the Hebrew Union College in Israel. Coincidentally, this was also my first year there. That was a wonderful year with Ernest, Emily, and two of their four children, Danny and Carolyn. In the fall of 1964, when the first small Gezer dig took place, the sherds were brought back to Hebrew Union College for Emily and me to wash and dry. The following spring and summer

when Ernest became the advisor to Gezer, however, Emily did not participate in the excavation. When I asked her why she had not gone with Ernest, she replied, "there were no proper bathrooms."¹⁰ Emily was a loyal, supportive wife, but the rigors of the field were obviously not for her.

It seems to me significant that, even after much research, the first name of Elihu Grant's wife could not be found. In 1930, Grant decided to return to Beth Shemesh (Ain Shems) and found it too late to recruit staff from America or Europe, so he proceeded with staff from Palestine. Dr. Grant appreciated the "pleasant air of home and housekeeping" that his wife brought to the excavation, but he worried about her overworking, and suffering from exhaustion. Speaking of his wife he wrote, "with a woman about camp and field, a pleasant air of home and housekeeping quality was lent to the expedition." Nevertheless, he was worried that she might overdo and suffer from exhaustion if she helped with the "real" archaeological work. Speaking of his wife he wrote, "she did many errands in the city, watched over our interests in camp, marked many hundred pieces of pottery and performed secretarial services, besides taking charge of the women's payroll."¹¹ Mrs. Grant also sent three hundred cucumbers to the camp to give some variety to breakfast, and she added soap and a towel as a gratuity to the wage of each woman working on her husband's excavation.

In contrast to the Wrights and the Grants, Helen and Nelson Glueck were a professional couple—albeit in markedly different professions. Albright said that their marriage in 1931 was the most important event in Nelson's life.¹² Helen Glueck was not involved in Nelson's career as an archaeologist. However, she helped him achieve his goals as an explorer and adventurer. Shortly after their marriage, Nelson went to Palestine, but Helen stayed behind to complete her medical degree and only joined Nelson in 1934. They lived at the American School, and Helen took an interest in the Director's house and in other parts of the school. She bought several pieces of furniture, rugs, and wall hangings that remain there to this day.

Women Present at the Birth of Israeli Archaeology

Yigael Yadin, perhaps the most famous Israeli archaeologist in the world, met his wife Carmella in high school. They married at a young age and had two daughters. In 1963–1964, Carmella helped to organize a volunteer dig at a site that had been previously unexplored—Masada. She handled all the requests for volunteers, and Yadin wrote in his book on the site, "I should like to thank Carmella, my wife, who single-handedly in our 'rear headquarters' in Jerusalem dealt with all our correspondence and thousands of volunteer applications. That this book in its present form is better than when I wrote it is mainly due to her."¹³

In other books, Yadin expressed similar sentiments writing in *Bar Kochba* that, "I am grateful to Carmella my wife, who not only shared the prosaic worries of pre- and post-expedition burdens, but rendered my poor English style readable"¹⁴ and in

Near Eastern Archaeologists – Who Were Their Husbands?

Sir Max (Edgar Lucien) Mallowan (1904–1978) is known primarily for his work in Mesopotamia. While working for the British School of Archaeology and the British Museum, Mallowan surveyed hundreds of sites in Iraq and excavated at Nimrod as well as many other places. He was a Professor of Archaeology at London University and also served as the director of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq from 1947-1961.

Sir William Flinders Petrie (1853–1942) was a pioneer of systematic methodology in archaeology. After surveying British prehistoric monuments, including Stonehenge, Petrie went to Egypt to excavate at many of the most important archaeological sites there, including Abydos and Amarna. By linking styles of pottery with periods, he developed seriation, a revolutionary method for establishing the chronology of a site. Petrie left Egypt for Palestine in 1926. Here he excavated a series of frontier sites between Egypt and Canaan and died in Jerusalem where he is buried in the Protestant cemetery on Mount Zion.

William Foxwell Albright (1891–1971) was an archaeologist, biblical authority, linguist and expert on ceramics. He was born in Chile to Protestant missionaries. Albright is considered to be one of the primary figures in the development of biblical archaeology and was responsible for so many major discoveries in Israel and Jordan that it is difficult to find a major site there with which he was not at one time involved. He presided over the creation of the Jerusalem research center of the American School of Oriental Research which is today called the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in his honor.

George Ernest Wright (1909–1974) was a leading biblical scholar and archaeologist. He was ordained in the Presbyterian church when he began to study with William Foxwell Albright at The Johns Hopkins University. Wright excavated at a number of sites including Gezer in Israel and Idalion in Cyprus and is responsible for creating the journal *Biblical Archaeologist*, the precursor to *Near Eastern Archaeology*.

Elihu Grant (1873–1942) of Haverford College (Haverford, Pennsylvania) directed excavations principally at Beth Shemesh in Israel. A devoted and lifelong Quaker, Grant later in life interspersed his teaching of archaeology

with regular sermons at Friends Meetings. Grant received his Ph.D. from Boston University in 1906 in Philosophy, but his dissertation entitled *Village Life in Palestine* was a classic ethno-historical study and he is often listed among anthropologists for this and other cultural studies he performed in Palestine.

Nelson Glueck (1900–1971) was an internationally prominent rabbi and archaeologist who is known outside the field for having delivered the benediction at President John F. Kennedy's inauguration and for having graced the cover of *Time Magazine* in 1963. As a result of his famous surveys, Glueck uncovered more than one thousand ancient sites in Jordan and another five hundred in the Negev in Israel. He was born in Cincinnati in 1900 and spent most of his life looking to Cincinnati as his home base. He was ordained a rabbi at Hebrew Union in 1923 and joined its faculty five years later. His archaeological work in the Middle East began in the twenties. During World War II Glueck put his intimate knowledge of the Middle East to work for the OSS, the predecessor to the CIA.

Albert Glock (1925–1992) is known for being both the founder and the Director of Birzeit University's Institute of Archaeology in Palestine. He was among the first archaeologists to promote and foster research into the archaeological record of Palestinian Arabs. Among the excavations he directed in the West Bank, his work with Palestinian students at Ta'anach is best known. Glock began his career like many others in biblical archaeology as a minister. His life was ended tragically in 1992 by a gunman.

Yigael Yadin (1917–1984) was born in Jerusalem. He became a key figure in the leadership for Israeli independence. He was named the second Chief of Independence. He was also named the second Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), and served in that capacity from 1949 to 1952. He left the army in 1952 to study archeology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem earning his Ph.D. in 1955. Fifteen years later, he became head of the Institute of Archeology at the Hebrew University. Yadin's fieldwork encompassed many of the most important excavations in Israel, including Hazor, the caves of the Judean Desert, Masada and Meggido. In addition to his career in archeology, he held several public offices in Israel, including that of Deputy Prime Minister.

Nachman Avigad (1906–1992) is known inter-nationally for his excavations of Jerusalem's Jewish Quarter. He was

born in Czechoslovakia and was a Professor of Archaeology at Hebrew University in Jerusalem for many years. In addition to his Jerusalem excavations, Avigad is renowned for his publication of the Baruch bullae, Hebrew seals and seal impressions that provide numerous details about life in the kingdom of Judah before the Babylonian Exile. Avigad was also the discoverer of the "Broad Wall," which suggested to scholars that the city of Jerusalem had been greatly expanded during the reign of King Hezekiah.

Yigal Shiloh (1937–1987) was an Israeli archaeologist who directed the excavations at the City of David in Jerusalem from 1978 to 1985. He revealed important finds, thus providing a clearer picture of the 586 BCE destruction of Nebuchadnezzar and of early post-exilic Jerusalem. Between 1983 and 1986 Shiloh served as director of the Hebrew University's Institute of Archaeology. In 1984 he published an interim assessment of the results from the City of David excavations.

Robert Bull is professor emeritus of Drew University. Between 1956 and 1973 he excavated at Shechem with G. Ernest Wright. Beginning in 1970 he began work with an American and Canadian expedition at Caesarea. One of the most notable discoveries of that expedition was a Mithraeum (a place of worship of the god Mithras), the Hippodrome and a complex of public buildings south of the Crusader City.

Gus Van Beek has been associated with the Smithsonian Institution, where he has been Curator of Old World Archaeology for more than thirty years. Van Beek's work has a geographical range that encompasses the entire ancient Near East. He played a major role in excavations in Yemen in the 1950s. He worked for twelve seasons at Tel Jemmeh, Israel between 1970 and 1990. The excavations employed a new methodology in which every artifact was saved, including fragments of wall plaster and even waste flakes. He made a thorough study of Old World mud architecture, examining methods of construction and varieties of designs in contemporary as well as ancient structures in Morocco, Egypt, Yemen, Israel, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan and India.

Joseph A. Callaway (1920–1988) was a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for almost his entire career. Callaway became interested in archaeology in 1960, joining Kelso's team at Bethel. In addition to Bethel, Callaway excavated at most of the well-known biblical sites in the West Bank, including Shechem and 'Ai, where he directed an expedition that had far-reaching effects both on

his personal views of biblical sites and the field in general. For a thorough treatment of Callaway's contribution to the field, see "Searching for Benchmarks in the Biblical World: the Development of Joseph A. Callaway as a Field Archaeologist," *Biblical Archaeologist* 58/1 (March 1995).

John S. Holladay, Jr. is Professor Emeritus of the University of Toronto in *Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations*. He was the director of the University of Toronto excavations at Tell el-Maskhuta. A biblical scholar and archaeologist, Holladay has worked at sites in Israel, Jordan and Egypt and has written and edited many books on the archaeology of the ancient Near East.

James Strange is a Professor of New Testament Studies at the University of South Florida. Since 1983, Strange has directed excavations at Sepphoris, Israel. Strange has been a field archaeologist in 1969 when he began working at Gezer. Later, he served as Co-Director of the Meiron Excavation Project and was at the Albright Institute in 1970 and again in 1980.

William G. Dever is Professor Emeritus of Near Eastern Archaeology at the University of Arizona. He began his archaeological career under the direction of G. Ernest Wright at Gezer and since that time has become one of the primary scholars recognized in the field today. He has served as director of the Albright Institute and of the Archaeological Institute of Hebrew Union College. His publications include over 250 articles and 17 books. His most recent book is *Did God Have a Wife? Archaeology and Folk Religion in Ancient Israel*.

Jim Sauer (1945–1999) was for many years the Director of the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan, leading it to the preeminent place it now occupies as a research institution dedicated to the archaeology and history of Transjordan. He also had a long association with the Horn Archaeological Museum and the Hesban Expedition. Particularly well known for his ceramic analyses, a mainstay of Near Eastern Archaeology, Sauer's work was instrumental in filling in gaps in the knowledge of Middle Eastern ceramics of all periods. At the time of his death Dr. Sauer was working on the final publication of Hesban pottery.

—Editor



Yigael Yadin is shown here with his wife, Carmella, and parents. Yigael was the son of archaeologist Eleazer Sukenik and Hasya Sukenik. Yadin was known for his irate responses to criticism and on many occasions Carmella had to convince him not to fire off letters in the heat of anger. Reportedly, Yadin did not take one step without her. Her contribution to his work was considerable. *Photo courtesy of the Israel Exploration Society.*

Bar Kochba and *The Cave of Letters* that "I am grateful to my wife ... for editing the first draft but also for her help in clarifying some of the problems concerning the weaving techniques of the textile finds."¹⁵ In *The Temple Scroll* he wrote, "Carmella typed the initial draft of my manuscript, polished it, and devoted considerable efforts to translate the text of the scroll into English. For nearly nine years we worked together on this text."¹⁶

As these grateful acknowledgements attest, Carmella was a good copyeditor, a job that has been performed by other archaeologists' wives over the years, but she was useful to her husband in many other ways. According to Josef Aviram, a close friend of the Yadins, Yadin, responding to criticism at times, would write angry letters to editors or others, but Carmella would convince him to wait and not mail the letters until he cooled off. Aviram says that Yadin did not take one step without her, that she was "in the picture one hundred percent," and that she was clever, honest, and a considerable partner in Yadin's work.¹⁷

Josef Aviram was well acquainted with the Avigads, as well as with the Yadins and said that Shulamit Avigad accompanied her husband everywhere and was very helpful in his work. She worked from 1953 to 1955 at Beit Shearim and typed and

Guns and Guffahs—Dangerous Archaeology from a Woman's Perspective

The early days of archaeology in the ancient Near East were times of great struggle—both from the standpoint of the labor involved and because of the adverse and even dangerous conditions under which scholars had to work. Lady Hilda Petrie managed workers in Egypt in 1898 and was no stranger to the rigors of the field. On one seemingly ordinary workday, she received a blunt reminder that there were other hardships involved in fieldwork in the Middle East. She was shot at while working at her desk, fortunately by an inexperienced marksman. Unharmed and undaunted, she saw no reason not to continue working at her husband's side.

Ruth Norton Albright was ever-conscious of the hazards of working in the Middle East. When the Albrights set up housekeeping in the American School on Abyssinian Street, plans were made and carried out to build the present building, but when Ruth saw the plans drawn by a Yale architect, she knew they were unsuitable for a school in Jerusalem (for example, the building was to have eleven entrances) and assisted in revising them. Ruth saw herself as standing between her husband and possible harm in many respects. In the late sixties, the Albrights came to Jerusalem. Joe Seger and William Dever picked them up from the King David Hotel to take William Albright to Gezer, and, as

usual, Ruth was still protecting him. She shook her finger at these two men, then in their mid-30s, and said, "Now you had better not harm a hair on William's head!"²⁰

In 1980 when Seymour Gitin became Director of the Albright, he asked Helen Glueck, Nelson Glueck's wife, for advice. In response, she said, "When you have a cocktail party, make sure that you have the lights off in the front of the building."²¹ The story goes that, at the first party Helen Glueck gave after Nelson became director of the Institute, a guest leaving by the front door was gunned down.

The last major incident involving an archaeologist is much more tragically recent and serves as a reminder that archaeology in this politically-unstable region is still perilous. In 1980 Lois and Al Glock moved the Ta'anach archaeological collection to Birzeit University as well as their home Beit Haninah. In 1991, they decided to move the material yet again to a rented space nearby. Lois customarily accompanied Al on his Sunday afternoon visit to the house at which he would later be shot, but on that Sunday in January of 1992 she stayed behind to continue packing materials. We will never know if Lois, too, would have been a target but the fact is that Al was killed that day in Ramallah. After Al's death, Lois moved the materials three more times and continued as curator of the Ta'anach and Jenin collections for three years. Then, she sold Al's library to Birzeit University and left permanently for the United States.²²



Shulamit Avigad (shown here is the middle of the picture) accompanied her husband everywhere and was very helpful in his work. She worked in 1953–1955 at Beit Shearim. From 1969 to 1984 she worked on the Ein Gedi Judean Caves volumes, as well as the Jerusalem excavation publications, typing and selecting illustrations. *Photo by the author.*



Robert and Vivian Bull, shown here, have worked together for most of their married lives. In the spring of 1967, Vivian was the camp manager for the expedition at Pella, an exceptionally rough season as rains caused their tents to sink into the mud, forcing them to live in the VW bus. *Photo courtesy of Vivian Bull.*

retyped the manuscript for the excavation, as well as helping with food for the staff. She also worked in 1969–1984 on the Ein Gedi Judean Caves volumes, as well as the Jerusalem excavation publications, typing and selecting illustrations.¹⁸

Tamar (Tami) and Yigal Shiloh met when they were in school and worked together on the excavations at Arad, Nagilah and Hazor. Tami almost studied archaeology, but she decided to study Bible instead since she thought that two married people with the same vocation could not have a healthy relationship. When Yigal became the director of the archaeological dig of the City of David in 1978 for eight summers, Tami became completely involved. She was in charge of the staff, the registered finds, and the dig camp, ordering supplies and helping in public relations. People found their own lodging and brought their own breakfast. Drinks were provided, however, and lunch was served for those who worked in the afternoon. All of this took tremendous organization, especially as the personnel and volunteers changed a great deal. Tami said in my interview with her in 2001 that she and Yigal were a team. While the excavation of the City of David was in progress, she organized classes of school children to visit the site and, when Yigal had to go to war in Lebanon in 1982, he turned everything over to her. Later, after his untimely death of cancer at the age of fifty, she traveled in the United States, lecturing about the City of David. Tami stated that when she and Yigal were “hot and dirty together,” she felt that it gave an extra quality to their life.¹⁹

American “Archaeological Couples” in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s

Bob and Vivian Bull met in Jerusalem in 1957, and after they married, Vivian joined the group excavating at Shechem taking over the books and the administration of the camp. Vivian

worked again at Shechem and Tel er-Ras at various times from 1960 to 1968, helping to buy supplies, working on the registry, and assisting in treating medical problems in the village. In the spring of 1967, Vivian was camp manager at Pella, which proved to be exceptionally rough, as rains caused their tents to sink into the mud, forcing the Bulls to live in their VW bus. It is true that their son, Camper, was conceived in this bus, but not true that he was named “Camper” after the bus! (He was named after his maternal grandmother.)

In 1970, Bob became Director of the Albright and received much help from Vivian. From 1971 to 1994 and again in 1996, Vivian was deeply involved in the excavation at Caesarea Maritima. She worked in all the non-archaeological tasks, making arrangements with the kibbutz, doing the bookkeeping, registering pottery and objects, managing the schedule, and working with the volunteers. During the first season there, she took a trip to get supplies in Jerusalem, during which her son Carlson arrived ahead of schedule. When Carlson was three weeks old, Vivian went back to the excavation, and she continues to be involved in archaeological work.²³

In 1958, Al Glock brought home a number of trays of sherds from Jericho, Tell en Nitla and other sites and told Lois to sort them and find parallels. For the next twenty years, Lois did



Lois Glock worked with archaeological finds for almost thirty-five years at the behest of her husband Albert Glock, who first brought home trays of sherds from Jericho in 1958. The Glocks lived in Jerusalem where Al became the Director of the Albright in 1978. In the eighties, the Glocks moved to the West Bank where they helped to establish the first Department of Archaeology at Birzeit University and where Al was tragically killed in 1992. *Photo by Al Glock.*

similar sorting for Taanach and Jenin. In 1963, 1966 and 1968, Lois left her four children with relatives to work at Taanach where she served as registrar, photographer and curator of material remains for the twelve-week season and follow-up in the United States. After the death of colleague Paul Lapp in 1970, Glock was to direct the publication of the Taanach excavations, so the couple moved to Jerusalem to work on the material which was then in the basement of the Albright. Lois worked full time on this enormous project, supervising vocational students as they cut sherds and drew pottery. She was copyeditor, proofreader, and photographic-plates-maker for the publication of Walter Rast's *Taanach I* volume. After her husband became the Director of the Albright in 1978, I remember seeing Lois planting and watering the trees at the Institute in addition to her other duties. From 1976 to 1980 Lois worked in different libraries, compiling relevant research for the Taanach staff and assisting Al when he excavated at Jenin. She also taught students at Birzeit University, where Al



Gus and Ora Van Beek are in the center of this photo and Tamar Shiloh on the left. (Yigal Shiloh was deceased when this photograph was taken.) Ora Van Beek trained as an ethnologist and put her background to the test when she helped her husband with research about earthen architecture. Traveling to Iran, Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan, and Yemen, Ora collected data about the interiors of women's quarters, while Gus researched the buildings' exteriors. Tamar Shiloh was famous for her "hands-on" participation in archaeological work and said that when she and Yigal were "hot and dirty together" she felt that it gave an extra quality to their life. *Photo by author.*

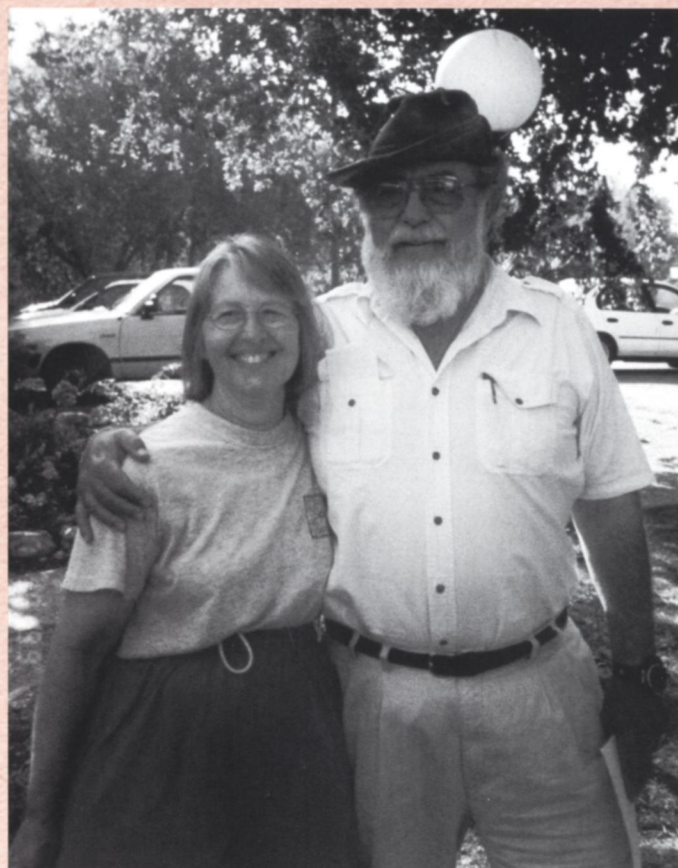
was establishing a Department of Archaeology. She worked tirelessly on Al's excavations and with the Bir Zeit students even after Al Glock's tragic death (see sidebar, p. 167).

Ora Van Beek, trained as an ethnologist and fluent in Hebrew, worked with Gus Van Beek at Tel Jemmeh for twelve field seasons from 1970–1990, serving principally as a liaison for the dig with Israeli institutions, including the Kibbutz Re'im, the Israeli army, the Regional Council, the Department of Antiquities and the Israeli press. When the kibbutz could no longer feed the excavation workers, Ora and two volunteers shopped for and even prepared food. She also helped set up camp and took people to the hospital in Beersheba when they were ill. Gus and Ora traveled to Iran, Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan, and Yemen, among other places, to do research about earthen architecture. Ora collected data about the interiors of women's quarters, while Gus researched the buildings' exteriors. Gus writes that he could never have excavated Jemmeh without Ora's support and help and says, "she is also the best traveling and working companion that I could imagine."²⁴

Sara Callaway said that when she first learned that Joe was asked by the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, where he was working, to teach archaeology, she cried. Knowing that he would be gone each summer for long periods of time, she asked Joe to take her with him and reported that he had responded by asking, "But what can you do?" She promised that, if he would take her, she would find a place on the dig, and on her first dig with Kathleen Kenyon at Jericho, she was given linens to mend. The next dig was at Shechem where she worked on the pottery. When Joe Callaway became



Sara Callaway is shown here in the garden of the Albright Institute. She said that she cried when she first learned that Joe was going to teach archaeology since it meant that he would be gone each summer for long periods of time. When she asked Joe to take her with him, she reported that he had responded by asking, "But what can you do?" She promised that, if he would take her, she would find a place on the dig and she did, subsequently doing everything from mending and cooking to sorting pottery. *This family photo was taken by Joe Callaway.*



For sixteen years, from 1985 to 2001, James and Carolyn Strange worked together on the University of South Florida's excavations at Sepphoris, where she was especially involved in arranging for food. In addition to her many day-to-day duties, she was also a memorable "hostess" for parties and recreational activities for both the volunteers and the members of the kibbutz. *Photo courtesy of the Sepphoris Excavations.*

the director of his own dig at 'Ai, Sara ran the dig house and cooked for eleven people on two primus burners. When the number of workers on that excavation increased to seventy-five people, Sara got a bit more help, but she managed mostly on her own. After their first experience, Joe never thought of leaving her at home, undoubtedly because, as she recalls, "I think my greatest contribution was being flexible and able to fit into the situation."²⁵

Jack and Phyllis Holladay always worked together, beginning with his seminary days, but Phyllis began to take a more active role in archaeology in 1971, processing the pottery of the Gezer Gate while Jack was in Jerusalem working at Hebrew Union College on a grant. In 1972 Phyllis went to Egypt with Jack and Donald Redford, where she helped to process the pottery from the Akhnaten Temple Project, and from 1977 to 1985, she helped to plan the project at the Wadi Tumilat. While working full-time on a tremendous corpus of Egyptian pottery, she was also responsible, for all but two years, for running the camp and the kitchen. During the eight years following the last field season in 1985, Phyllis ran the Wadi Tumilat Project Laboratory at the University of Toronto and also worked on older material from Shechem and Gezer, all the while battling cancer, to which she finally succumbed in 1993. In Jack's own words "a quiet, determined feminist, she was also a loving wife, incredible mother, loyal friend to hundreds, and an outstanding archaeologist in her own right."²⁶

For sixteen years, from 1985 to 2001, Carolyn Strange worked as the camp manager for the University of South Florida's excavations at Sepphoris, where she was especially involved in arranging for food (including the second breakfast in the field every day). She was also a memorable "hostess," for, in addition to her many day-to-day duties, she arranged for parties and

recreational activities for both the volunteers and the members of the kibbutz. There was the "First Friday Party" and "Fourth of July" party, the latter complete with costumes, parade and apple pie with ice cream for all the "kibbutzniks."²⁷ Each Friday night, Carolyn also bought wine, bread and candles for Sabbath blessings. She made all of the arrangements for weekends in Jerusalem and provided food for two Saturday or Sunday educational trips to other archaeological sites.

Sue and Jim Sauer met in Jordan at the Hesbon excavation in the summer of 1973, when Sue was only nineteen years old, and they quickly decided that they wanted to get married. Sue went to the United States to speak with her parents, returning to Jordan in September to marry Jim, who was the Annual Professor at the American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman. In July of 1974, Jim became the Acting Director of the center and, later, the Director. Sue helped Jim start the hostel at ACOR and establish its library, beginning with the G. E. Wright collection. She became the librarian in addition to managing the hostel. When Mohammed Adawi, the cook, took a vacation or was absent, she shopped and cooked for the group. When the



school was moved to new quarters in 1977, Sue was responsible for moving and setting up the library. The Sauers' two children, Tom and Katie, were both born in Jordan. Sue recalls that when Katie was only two days old she gave a dinner for the Board of Trustees. When Jim was away in Yemen or on lecture tours, Sue was left in charge of the Institute, but after they returned to the United States, she said she did not get much involved in Jim's work.²⁸

The Devers—My Own Story

Bill and I met in college and were married almost two years later, at the age of nineteen. For the next five years, I taught school in Tennessee and Indiana, while Bill got a B.D. and an M.A. at the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. In the summer of 1957, Bill went to Israel, visiting the dig in progress at Hazor. He was not particularly interested in archaeology at that time but became interested in the writings of G. E. Wright at Harvard. We moved to Boston in 1959. Bill began his studies at Harvard in the fall of 1960, and I taught school (again!).



"Dig wives" in the twentieth century had many active roles to play on excavations. These photos from the Gezer excavations show Norma Dever identifying pottery with William Dever and G. Ernest Wright (top), working on reports with William Dever (middle), washing pottery with Carolyn Wright, Marion Beegle and an unidentified woman (bottom left), and sorting sherds (below).





William G. Dever, the author, and their son, Sean, at Gezer in 1971.

In the summers of 1962 and 1964, Bill went to Shechem with Wright. In 1964, I joined him in Beirut, and we drove to Jerusalem, which was a thrill for a girl from southwestern Virginia. We crossed the Mandelbaum Gate to be at the Hebrew Union College in Israel for the school year. While in Israel, I helped Bill with research on his Ph.D. thesis and that fall Wright and Glueck thought that it would be great to probe the site of Gezer. Bill, Darrell Lance, and Wright located the tell and started a small dig, driving out every day from Jerusalem with several volunteers, bringing the material finds back to Hebrew Union College. This was my first involvement with what turned out to be a seven-

year, mostly-unpaid job with the Gezer excavation, joining the core Staff as Pottery Registrar, Camp Manager, and Financial Officer. In the spring of 1965, we cleaned out a large building that the kibbutz did not use. That season was successful, so a larger excavation was planned. The kibbutz gave us another building to clean and use that summer. We had to build a camp or renovate the entire kibbutz!

After one year back in the United States, where I taught school (again!) and typed Bill's thesis (despite the fact that I said I never would), we returned to Jerusalem for Bill to direct the Gezer dig. I worked full-time in the Gezer office in the off-seasons from 1966–1971. In 1969 Sean William was born, and we later moved to Cincinnati for the school year. In addition to taking care of infant Sean, I ran the Gezer volunteer office from home, recruiting over 120 volunteers for the next season. Sean often played in the wastebasket while I worked, or amused himself with his toys.

Returning to Jerusalem in 1970, I once again went back to Gezer, while Sean stayed with an American family in Jerusalem during the week. In the summer of 1971, we moved to the Albright Institute in East Jerusalem. Bill went to Gezer, and I basically managed the Albright for the summer. For the next four years, I was Bill's secretary, was in charge of the day-to-day running of the hostel and entertained many visitors to the school in the Director's house.

After moving to Tucson, Arizona, I went back to the third season of Be'er Resisim in 1980 to run the camp, supervise the schedule and handle the money. For the first time, we took Sean to the dig. This was certainly a challenging season in the Negev Desert. Over seventy people lived in tents, three hours from Beersheba, where we purchased

all our food, and one hour from the Israeli army camp that gave us water, which we hauled constantly.

In 1984 we went back to Gezer with a large group, camping on the edge of the kibbutz. While in Arizona, I worked a great deal for Bill, typing articles and helping with the *Bulletin of ASOR* when he was editor. On Bill's sabbatical in 1981–1982, I typed the manuscript for *Gezer IV* at the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. In the last few years since our divorce, I am again typing for Bill, but now he pays me!

Of course these are only a few of the many resolute women of the past century who braved the rigors of dig life. I think I can speak for all the wives mentioned here, as well as others

unnamed, that being involved in archaeology has been both challenging and rewarding. We would not exchange these experiences for any others. Now that archaeology is trying to understand the role of women in ancient societies more and more, I want the names of these modern women to be added to those of their better-known husbands, who were the primary archaeologists, and say "They also dug!"

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Notes

1. Albright (1949: 13).
2. Ceram (1966: 51–60).
3. Trail (1999: 14–21).
4. Mason (2001: 46–52).
5. Andrews, Biggs, Seidel, et al. (1996: 123–31).
6. Petrie (1969: v).
7. Petrie (1969: 176).
8. O. Jibril (personal communication, 1970).
9. R. Albright (personal communication, 1972).
10. E. Wright (personal communication, 1965).
11. Grant (1931: 57).
12. Running and Freedman (1975: 422–34).
13. Yadin (1966: 8).
14. Yadin (1971: 13).
15. Yadin (1963: x).
16. Yadin (1977: xii).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Norma Dever has taught junior high school, high school and, for the past twenty-eight years, has been Adjunct Faculty of Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona. Using her talents for fund raising, she has headed an Alumni and Friends Campaign for the Albright Institute for the past twelve years, raising money for many practical projects for the Jerusalem school. Norma has been Editorial Assistant for the Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research and has served on the Board of Trustees of the Albright Institute since 1996. Norma and William Dever have established the Sean William Dever Memorial Prize for pre-Ph.D. students of archaeology and related subjects in honor of their son who died in April, 2001. Norma has traveled extensively in the Middle East, and her genuine interest in the history of the region, both modern and ancient, is one of her main passions.



Norma Dever

17. J. Aviram (personal communication, 2001).
18. J. Aviram (personal communication, 2001).
19. T. Shiloh (personal communication, 2001).
20. W. G. Dever and J. Seger (personal communications, 1969).
21. S. Gitin (personal communication, 1980).
22. L. Glock (personal communication, 2001).
23. V. Bull (personal communication, 2001).
24. G. Van Beek (personal communication, 2001).
25. S. Callaway (personal communication, 2001).
26. J. Holladay (personal communication, 2001).
27. C. Strange (personal communication, 2001).
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