



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Timothy P. Harrison, ASOR-President

At its November meeting, the ASOR Board of Trustees voted unanimously to retain administrative oversight of the Annual Meeting, while continuing to meet in the same town and at the same general time as the SBL annual meetings. This vote culminated a passionate and invigorating debate within our membership and constituent stakeholders over the past year. It reaffirmed the importance these meetings hold for our members, and demonstrated the strong commitment we all share for the well-being of ASOR and its programs. The consensus that emerged from these discussions also provided a valuable framework that I believe can guide us as we confront other important decisions that still lie before us.

As part of its resolution, the Board charged the Executive Director and me, working together with the Program Committee, to explore ways to coordinate our program sessions with SBL, while continuing to broaden the range of sessions we offer. We have been busy since November working to implement the Board's decision, and I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made on this point. In particular, SBL has agreed not to hold



any archaeology sessions on Saturday, which will enable registrants of both meetings to attend archaeology sessions at ASOR without a scheduling conflict. SBL has also graciously agreed to permit ASOR conference registrants access to their book exhibit hall with an ASOR name badge, and for no additional charge. This agreement will be a trial arrangement for the 2008 meetings, and so is subject to change. However, I have been encouraged by the positive and constructive spirit of the discussions, and I am confident that we will be able to build on this year's arrangement in ways that are mutually beneficial to both our organizations.

In addition, Andy Vaughn and Alexandra Ratzlaff have been busy exploring venues for the upcoming meetings in Atlanta (2010), San Francisco (2011), and Chicago (2012), and they are optimistic that we will be in a position to sign contracts through 2012 over the next few months. We have decided to negotiate these contracts directly with hotels, rather than through a travel agent, as a way to further reduce the cost to our members. Thus far the negotiations are progressing well. Andy and Alex are pleased with the facilities and the hotels they have visited, and I am confident that we will be able to secure attractive, reasonably priced venues.

The Program Committee has also been hard at work planning the program for the 2008 Annual Meeting in Boston. We have decided to stay with the configuration of recent years, with a plenary session opening the meetings Wednesday evening, and sessions continuing through Saturday. I am particularly pleased to be able to report that Martha Joukowsky has agreed to deliver the plenary address. We are also working on ways to increase participation and maintain the strong attendance we have enjoyed in recent years.

The ASOR Board also charged Andy Vaughn and me to work with the affiliated research centers to ensure that their concerns and priorities are addressed more effectively during the planning and organization of the annual meetings. This

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year ACOR and CAARI will be celebrating their 40th and 30th year anniversaries respectively, and I am particularly pleased that ASOR will be joining them in celebrating these important milestones. There will be special sessions in the Annual Meeting program highlighting the research these centers have sponsored over the years, as well as a gala reception.

As you can see, the 2008 Annual Meeting in Boston promises to be a memorable event, and I would encourage you to consider registering now. As further incentive, this year we have introduced a number of 'early bird' special registration deals, so be sure not to miss out on them. Andy Vaughn, Alexandra Ratzlaff, and the Program Committee are to be applauded for their hard work and the creative approach they have taken planning these meetings. It is clear that the program is in good hands, and that we can expect the Annual Meeting to continue to remain a strong and signature event in ASOR's annual calendar. It has also been gratifying to witness the positive momentum and energy that were generated by the deliberations and introspection we allowed ourselves to undertake over the

past year regarding the future of the Annual Meetings.

This issue of the Newsletter also presents the reports of the inaugural recipients of the Heritage and Platt Fellowships in 2007. As their stories indicate, these new fellowship programs are an important resource for students, providing them with the opportunity to gain valuable, and often deeply rewarding, educational training and experience. As the next generation, they also represent the future, and these programs therefore are an important investment for ASOR. Consequently, we are working to grow and expand the number of fellowships we can offer, and I would encourage you to consider making a contribution to help us in our efforts to do so.

As the financial status report in this issue demonstrates, ASOR's finances are healthy and in good order. We are also thrilled with the broad-based nature of the giving we have witnessed thus far this fiscal year, and we are gratified by the active rate at which our membership and friends are contributing. Thank you! These are exciting times for ASOR, and I look forward to continuing our work together. ❁

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The ASOR Newsletter

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REPORTS FROM RECIPIENTS OF 2007 HERITAGE AND PLATT GRANTS

Oded Borowski, Emory University

The first season of the Lahav Research Project, Phase IV was held from June 4 - July 6, 2007 under the direction of Prof. Oded Borowski of Emory University. Consortium member institutions included Emory University and Miami University of Ohio with additional support provided by the Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University, the Heritage Fund of ASOR, the Cobb Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State University, the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, the Joe Alon Center at Kibbutz Lahav, and individual donors. Core field staff included Professors Deborah Appler (Moravian Theological Seminary), Julye Bidmead (Miami University), and James W. Hardin (Cobb Institute); James Bos (University of Michigan) was area supervisor trainee. Registration was handled by Marian Broida (Emory University) with the help of Liza Abramson (Miami University), and drafting by Dylan Kerges (Cobb Institute) and J. Rosenberg (AIAR). Eighteen undergraduate and graduate students who came from the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand participated in the program.

Work concentrated in a newly opened field (Field V), south of and adjacent to the previously excavated Field IV (Fig. 1), in Areas E7, F7, G7, H6, H7, I5, and I6, all located at the top of the southwestern slope. The aims of this phase have been to expose additional domestic units adjacent to the city fortifications from the end of the 8th century BCE (Str. VIB), which were destroyed by a military campaign, possibly Sennacherib's in 701 BCE, with the hope of recovering supplementary information that will shed light on daily life in that region. Furthermore, it has been hoped to uncover additional data pertaining to city planning, the economy, and relationships between this site and other regions.

Major elements of 8th century BCE domestic architecture (Str. VIB) were encountered immediately below topsoil in all of the excavated areas. These included parts of the city outer wall and rooms adjacent to it on the inside in a typical casemate fashion. In several rooms, floors made of hard packed dirt, cobbles and crushed limestone were found overlaid with large amounts of in situ crushed storage jars, many which were of the lmlk type, and other vessels covered with heavy destruction debris (Fig. 2). Evidence of the military action that caused the destruction was found in the form of ballista stones and iron arrowheads. The collapse of the superstructure helped preserve much of the evidence.

Many of the rooms yielded proof that the Iron Age II inhabitants of Tell Halif were engaged in spinning and weaving. This evidence is very similar to what was recovered in earlier seasons in Fields III and IV. However, in this season, Area E7 provided a dramatic illustration of the intensity of the Halifites' engagement in these activities. It seems that this area was occupied by a weaving and dyeing workshop (Figs. 3-4), parts of which were not yet recovered since they lie below the E balk and the unexcavated Area E6. The remains in Area E7 included

numerous loom weights, spindle whorls and fragments of bone tools in addition to a large number of ceramic vessels (jars, bowls, jugs, juglets, oil lamps) and grinding implements of different shapes and sizes—possibly for the preparation of pigments for dyeing.

Several of the areas (e.g., F7, H6, and H7) were occupied during the life of Str. VIA, the "Squatters Phase." Unfortunately, most of the floors belonging to this stratum could not be traced. It is possible that this is the result of root action affecting the floors because of their close proximity to the surface. Another possible reason is the fact that the floors were made of packed dirt and the short duration of this phase did not enable them to "mature" and harden. Nevertheless, the existence of this phase became very clear by the discovery of large quantities of flat-lying, restorable vessels associated with installations built well above the Str. VIB floors.

Several cult objects from the Iron II and Persian periods discovered during the 2007 season indicate that cultic activities took place in this area, thus strengthening the suggestion advanced in previous seasons that during these periods there must have been a cult center in close proximity to Fields IV and V. The objects under discussion include a zoomorphic vessel (Fig. 5), two horse and rider figurine fragments, and a votive oil lamp (Figs. 6-7), all from the Iron Age II, as well as two molded figurine fragments (Figs. 10-11), two limestone incense altars (Figs. 8-9) and a fragment of a third, all dating from the Persian period.

Typical Hellenistic period sherds, mostly in Areas H6 and I5, suggest that during that period the area of Field V was the subject of pitting—possibly for stone robbing from earlier structures. Similar activities were carried out in later periods, especially in the Byzantine period.

Future plans include finishing the recovery of the weaving workshop, continuing to uncover the plan of the city in this quarter, and trying to determine the original date of the Iron Age II fortifications and the adjacent structures. ❁

Andrea Creel

Thanks to the support of the ASOR Heritage Excavation Grant, I volunteered this summer with the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon, sponsored by the Harvard Semitic Museum and Boston College. The 22 year long excavation, headed by Lawrence Stager of Harvard University, is now co-directed by Daniel Master of Wheaton College, a former student of Lawrence Stager and longtime presence at Ashkelon. Home to Canaanites, Philistines and Phoenicians, Ashkelon was an important seaport of the southern Levant for over 5000 years. This year's excavation concentrated on Grid 38, located in the central part of the tel, and unearthed Late Bronze (1600-1200 BCE), Iron I (1200-1000 BCE) and Iron II (1000-586 BCE) remains.

I spent my time at Ashkelon digging in two Philistine

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houses from the 11th century BCE, which, though inadvertent on the part of the staff member who assigned me there, was quite fortuitous. My primary research interests just happen to be in household archaeology and the archaeologies of religion and gender. Thus, my first excavation in Israel contributed immensely to my professional pursuits. Not only that, but unlike many an excavation experience in which the archaeological remains can be muddled and confusing, I got to work on clearly defined architecture. I learned how to identify and excavate mud brick walls, beaten earth floors and household features like storage bins and a keystone shaped hearth. At the beginning of the season it was actually unclear how many houses we were in, but the discovery of that keystone shaped hearth in a small room next door to another room that also contained a hearth seems to indicate that we were in two different houses, although they were probably lived in by members of the same extended family. I also became quite adept at locating and excavating pits and postholes, even earning the nickname “Pit Girl.”

The small finds in the houses were also truly exceptional. Other excavators in the houses found a complete potter’s wheel and socket, a bronze spear head and an infant jar burial uniquely inscribed with Egyptian style graffiti. In addition, I discovered and excavated a large cache of Philistine style cylindrical loom weights and an infant pit burial. The infant burial was the 7th found so far in Grid 38 and like others before it was located next to a wall right under a floor in the house. These infant burials all date from roughly the same time period and the exact circumstances surrounding them are still unknown. I also excavated a foundation deposit, located in a pit next to a wall as well, which was composed of clay and the right forearm of a sheep. The most important find I excavated though had to be the longest piece of jewelry ever recovered at Ashkelon, totaling at over 700 multicolored frit beads. This was not only significant for its size, but also for the fact that, though the string had long since disintegrated, the beads were still lined up. For the first time, the pattern of a piece of Philistine jewelry could be seen. We didn’t just take note of the pattern though. The dig photographer took

a series of photographs of the necklace as it revealed itself, not only for posterity but also for reconstruction. Then, I spent a whole day with those hundreds of tiny and fragile beads and the photographs of their excavation, carefully restringing them to recreate the pattern we had seen in the ground. The necklace that resulted is in a series of alternating monochromatic lines of small beads interspersed with pairs of larger rosette beads and, ironically, looks amazingly contemporary. Jewelry making, it turns out, hasn’t changed much in the last 3000 years.

The 2007 season at Ashkelon proved to be an immensely fruitful endeavor and the 2008 season looks just as promising. Excavation will continue in Grid 38, but also expand into Grid 51 and some new areas surveyed by Ground Penetrating Radar which will include Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Persian Period, Roman-Byzantine Period and Islamic remains. ❀

Christopher B. Hays, Emory University

I would like to thank ASOR for its support of my work with the Lahav Research Project at Tell Halif, Israel. We had an excellent season at Halif under the leadership of Prof. Oded Borowski of Emory University, who has excavated there for many years. Thanks to Prof. Borowski’s familiarity with the layout of the ancient town, we found ourselves almost immediately into Iron Age remains. Within the first week we had begun to excavate walls of a scale that suggested public architecture, and in the second week we uncovered large storerooms full of large jars.

In one of the squares I worked, after some backbreaking days of clearing out more than a meter of rocky fill from a later period, we finally came upon an Iron Age floor covered in ash. Eventually, two ballista stones emerged, sitting neatly on the floor next to a couple of charred cooking pots. The destruction layer was probably from Sennacherib’s campaign in 701, and these items had been buried in fallen mudbrick ever since and not seen by human eyes all these many centuries. These moments of wonder made all the hard work worth it. Just a few days later, in the Ariel Center for Jerusalem in the First Temple Period, I saw ballista stones and iron arrowheads identical to the ones we found. This was just one of many connections between our site’s work and the broader history of Israel.

Over all, there was a great diversity to our finds: in addition to what I have already mentioned, there were pieces of scale armor, offering tables, a cultic oil lamp, intact juglets, jar fragments with potter’s marks, inscribed weight stones, humanoid figurines, and a delicately carved pomegranate.

To have glimpsed the physical remains of ancient Israel and participated in the sort of archaeological research that shapes our accounts of its history will make an immeasurable difference in my teaching of the Bible. It brought to life ancient events both monumental and mundane, both military campaigns and daily life. I am very grateful to ASOR for making this experience possible. ❀

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Kevin Cooney, Boston University

I was able to begin analysis on over 7,000 lithics as dissertation research, thanks in part, to a fellowship from the American Schools of Oriental Research. The Platt Fellowship provided transport and materials necessary for conducting field research abroad. In accordance with the requirements in accepting the fellowship, the following is a brief report on the research I conducted for seven weeks, in the fall of 2007, in western Anatolia.

Ulucak Höyük is a multiphase settlement located 25 km east of Izmir, in central western Anatolia. Excavation of the site by a team of archaeologists from Ege University has been ongoing since 1995 and has produced an astonishing amount of material. The settlement mound is fairly substantial, with over 11 meters of cultural accumulation at its deepest point.



In total area, material from the mound has been found in a three-hectare radius around the site. So far, archaeologists have found evidence for occupation in five phases (I-V). Occupational phase I represents a mixed layer of Late Roman through Early Byzantine material. Phase II is categorized as Early Bronze, phase III as Chalcolithic, while phases IV and V represent the Early and Middle Neolithic. Although virgin soil has not yet been reached, current data suggest the earliest level (V) begins around 6000 BC.

Understanding how the Neolithic appeared and subsequently developed in western Anatolia is important on both local and regional levels. Increasing our understanding requires sites with early dates and continuous occupational phases during the Neolithic. Ulucak Höyük is one of the oldest Neolithic sites in central western Anatolia and was continuously occupied during phases IV and V. The primary focus of the research is in understanding lithic trends in the Neolithic Ulucak levels (IV, V).

Over 7,000 lithics were randomly sampled from the more than 20,000 lithics excavated so far at Ulucak. Data was collected on raw material use and procurement, production methods, type frequencies, and standardization. Analysis of the data is ongoing; however, changes in raw material and type frequencies have been identified, as well as similarities in production method. The presence of large quantities of obsidian used for production is also of interest. A full report of

the research carried out will be given during the ASOR Annual Meeting in Boston. I would like to thank the American Schools of Oriental Research for making this research possible. I would also like to thank Altan Çilngiroğlu, Ciler Çilngiroğlu and Ege University. ❁

Megan Bettilyon, San Diego State University

This summer I was a very fortunate recipient of a 2007 ASOR Heritage Scholarship. This scholarship enabled me to work with Dr. Michele Daviau on the Khirbat al-Mudanya Project in the Wadi ath-Thamad region of Jordan. Our site was situated about a half-hour away from the city of Madaba, famous for being the location of the Madaba Map, an intricate, late 6th century mosaic depicting important cities and places in the region including the Dead Sea, Jerusalem, and the Nile. Our team lived in the town of Madaba during the excavation which provided for a great way to meet and interact with the local population, as well as brush up on our Arabic.

The excavation itself was located at Khirbat al-Mudanya, a wonderful site, unique in the region as it is a natural tel, with only one occupation which dates roughly to the Late Iron I and Iron IIa and b. A Roman Nabataean reservoir is located at the base of the tel and is also being excavated as part of this project. Dr. Daviau has constructed the excavation to serve not only as a meticulous and careful



locus of research, but also as a traditional field school where in students learn about all aspects of field archaeology, from preparing a square for excavation to drawing the section plans when work is complete. Under her directorship, and the supervision of Dr. Michael Weigl, I worked as the square supervisor in Field B, Square 22. Our square is located on the eastern side of the tel and encompassed both the inner and outer casemate walls of the fortress itself. Excavating our square was important to determine relationships between the outer casemate rooms to one another, as well as their association to the previously excavated rooms within the inner casemate wall boundaries.

The time I spent in Jordan was very rewarding. I feel privileged to have been part of this amazing project. Without the support of ASOR and the Heritage Scholarship donors, I would never have been able to afford this amazing and fulfilling experience. I look forward to the day when I can help to provide another young student with the same opportunity. ❁

Paula V. Cooper, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

I thank ASOR for its generosity in extending the financial support that made it possible for me to take part in the Tel Zeitah excavations. I'm compelled to express my gratefulness and my feelings of joyfulness. I feel that God used ASOR to bless me with this opportunity. Such a blessing has allowed me a wonderful and, still unbelievable, opportunity.

During the excavation, I was involved in finding artifacts that could lead to or uncover the Biblical history of God's people. The first week consisted of clearing the overgrown weeds and grass that had grown in and over the individual squares since the last season of 2005. This is where this "city girl" learned how to use what we called back home "gardening tools." My first lesson began with the tool called the terea, a pickax that we used to cut down the weeds from their roots. After clearing the brush, we were assigned to the squares where we worked for five weeks. I was assigned to the square, O19, where a stone with a Hebrew inscription had previously been found. However, no matter how exciting and exhilarating it was to find the artifacts related to biblical history, the work performed each day wasn't any easy task. Our day began at 4:00AM, and we worked from 5:00AM to around 12:30PM. Later each afternoon at 4:00PM, we gathered to wash pottery and bones that had been found on the Tel that day. At 6:00PM, we heard lectures concerning other Tels in Israel, what methods were used to date the artifacts, and other various topics pertaining to the excavations.

After a hot and hard week of work, the weekends consisted of bus excursions to different Holy Lands and places. My reading of the Old Testament will never be the same again. I was actually in Israel and can now associate the stories in the Old Testament with the tours of the Holy Lands and places. We toured Jerusalem, the Galilee region (Hazor, Dan, Megiddo, the Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, the church on the Mount of the Beatitudes, Church of the Primacy of St. Peter and Peter's home, Tabgha, and Capernaum), and we also visited the Negev region (En Gedi, Masada, Beer-Sheva, Shivta, Avdat, Qumran, and the Dead Sea), to name a few. ❁

Jenifer C. Elam, Independent Researcher

Khirbet Qana was a Galilean village located on the northern edge of the Beit Netofa Valley. Qana was inhabited for several centuries from the Neolithic period through the Ottoman period. The 2007 season of excavations at Khirbet Qana focused on four items: the large building on the acropolis, an industrial complex on the southeast slope, the graffiti drawn on the interior walls of the pilgrim cave, and basalt samples taken for comparative studies. These issues were examined as part of the preparation for the publication of the first volume on Qana. As Head Registrar and Chief Technical Illustrator, it was my task to teach several volunteers proper archaeological methodology and procedures, to produce the top plan and balk drawings for each square, and to catalog and organize the artifacts and samples in the registry.

Throughout my time in Israel, I worked closely with the director of excavations at Khirbet Qana, Dr. Douglas Edwards, keeping the photo logs up to date, cataloging the basalt samples, preparing pottery for reading, and maintaining a level of organization at the registry on a daily basis. On the weekends, when we were not on site or working in the registry, I traveled throughout northern Israel to places such as the Church of the Bread and Fishes and The Church of the Annunciation, swam in the Sea of Galilee at Tiberias and in the Mediterranean at Tel Dor, and visited other archaeological sites such as Yodfat, Megiddo, Beth Shean, Caesarea, and Beit Shearim.

The centerpiece of this season's excavations was the southern wall of a large structure on the acropolis at Qana. This suspected synagogue dates to the Byzantine period in its latest use. The chronology of the rooms to the south of the "synagogue" proper is still being explored. The purpose of the excavations of the possible synagogue was to determine how the southern landscape was accessed from the western side of the synagogue given its significantly lower elevation, and to shed new light on the chronology of the southern, exterior rooms. Excavations revealed a flagstone ramp from the western side of the building leading up to the southern side of the structure.

An industrial complex lies approximately halfway down the steep southeastern slope of the site. After excavating portions of the complex, its function remains unknown. Two stepped pools were also recorded near the industrial complex. These are most likely miqveh, ritual bathing pools, which probably date to the Roman period.

The pilgrim cave, located at the base of the southern slope of the acropolis, was utilized as a pilgrim destination between the 5th century and the Crusader period. At some point, the interior of the cave was burned leaving most of its interior surfaces covered in soot. Graffiti drawn on the interior walls by the pilgrims who visited the cave was analyzed by scholars from Brigham-Young University using multi-spectral imaging. This process, which involves taking several photographs through lenses ranging from the infra-red to the ultra-violet, will provide a clearer, more detailed image of the faded and



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burned graffiti. It will also enable the separation of layers of graffiti drawn on top of one another.

Basalt samples taken from industrial artifacts recovered at Qana are to be compared with samples taken from basalt outcrops in the neighboring regions of Israel. This information will be used to articulate Qana's involvement in or isolation from regional trade interaction specific to industry requiring items made of basalt. University of Puget Sound Geology Professor Barry Goldstein traveled the region collecting samples from outcrops and roadsides to compare to the samples from Qana.

In addition to traveling and seeing more of Israel, this trip allowed me to speak with and question scholars from three different universities as well as meet people from across the U.S. I also taught several of the volunteers how to draw top plans and balks quickly and more accurately. The data compiled through excavation and the analysis of the samples retrieved during the 2007 season will provide a more complete picture of life at Qana during several periods of its history, and the first publication of Khirbet Qana will be all the richer for it. ❁

Robbyn Gordon, University of Victoria

I wish to express my thanks for ASOR's generous endowment of a Platt Fellowship award. My MA research, which took place in Jordan in June, 2007, corresponds with ASOR's mission: "To initiate, encourage and support research into, and public understanding of, the peoples and cultures of the Near East." Through ASOR's support, I was able to carry out a collaborative ethnographic study regarding issues of self-identity in Humayma, Jordan.

Humayma, Jordan is a region with a significant history of cultural interchange. Over the past 20 years, an archaeological excavation project under the direction of Dr. J. P. Oleson, has uncovered material finds which span multiple historic cultures including Nabataean, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic societies. During this time, professional and academic relationships, as well as personal friendships, have been forged through the excavation at Humayma. Jordanians and North Americans have used the project as an opportunity to share language and culture. Many of those who worked to develop relationships at Humayma have used photography as a means to illustrate and communicate ideas, as well as to produce visually meaningful records of their encounters.

Influenced by the intense history of cultural exchange at Humayma, I have conducted an investigation of how a specific Bedouin family local to the region—members of the Manaja'a family—see photography as a way of documenting their lives and experiences for themselves, their families, and for cultural outsiders.

Through a collaborative process, members of the Manaja'a family and I discussed their personal collection of photographs comprised of images taken by cultural outsiders including past excavation co-workers and tourists. We then moved beyond viewing these images created by non-family

members and worked together to produce new photographs of ourselves and each other.

This project reflects an encounter between people of diverse identities and serves to highlight the interconnectedness of the local and global communities involved. Together, through the acknowledgment of social, historical and personal differences, members of the Manaja'a family and I were able to negotiate collaborative cross-cultural learning through the production of photography as a form of visual culture. Our collaboration resulted in the production of over 1000 photographic images. It is my hope that these photographs will act as statements of identity and will add to present day scholarship's increasingly heterogenic representations of the many indigenous peoples living in the Middle East; and, as a consequence, add to the body of images emphasizing visual difference, changing the dynamic of culturally-universalizing depictions of Middle Eastern people currently circulating in "Western" popular media. ❁

Christopher Mavromatis University of Birmingham, UK

The 2007 and final field season of the Kourion Mapping Project (KMP) brought to a close several seasons of topographical and contour survey. As one of the few accessible major sites on Cyprus, Kourion provides opportunities for fieldwork in both heritage management as well as academic research. The Kourion Mapping Project embraced both of these research avenues in its scope of work. In order to achieve its overall objectives, the project adopted an integrated approach that utilized both differential GPS (DGPS) and total station (EDM) survey. As a member of the KMP, I was involved in all aspects of the field survey. More specifically, as a member of the EDM survey crew, I was able to extensively train on and use the project's Leica 715 total station for a verity of tasks such as the creation of top plans and architectural elevations for the 2007 survey targets. Post-processing procedures involved symbolizing and georectifying the data we captured in the field with both GIS and CAD software packages. After the initial post-processing was complete, I was also able to work in tandem with those project members using differential GPS (DGPS) to create the project's larger geo-spatial framework. This, in turn, allowed me to project the EDM data we captured during the 2007 season directly into the project's larger geo-spatial framework and then perform the relevant checks on the data. Additionally, several aspects of the KMP's larger research questions dovetailed with my own research interests such as heritage management, the use of urban space and the role of the city in Late Antiquity in general and on Cyprus in particular. ❁

Gwyn Davies, Florida International University and Jodi Magness, UNC at Chapel Hill

In June of 2007, Gwyn Davies and Jodi Magness co-directed the fifth and final season of excavations in the Late Roman fort at Yotvata in Israel's southern Arava. Located 40 kilometers north of Eilat/Aqaba, the fort was established ca. 300 C.E., as part of Diocletian's effort to secure the line of communication with the Tenth Legion, which he transferred from Jerusalem to Aila. The fort is a standard quadriburgium measuring ca. 40 x 40 meters, with four square corner towers oriented towards the cardinal points. A monumental Latin inscription that was discovered by accident in 1985 and originally was set over the east gate reveals that the ancient name of the site was Costia.

Our excavations have clarified the occupational history of the site, which was explored in limited soundings by the Israeli archaeologist Zeev Meshel in the 1970s. We have identified three main periods of occupation: the original Late Roman foundation, dating to the first half of the fourth century, an elusive (perhaps only partially sedentary) Byzantine phase dating to the fifth century, and an early Islamic phase of the seventh to eighth centuries. The original Roman phase includes a series of 4-5 floor levels laid one above the other, after which point the fort was abandoned (ca. 360 C.E.). The fort appears to have suffered serious earthquake damage some time after the abandonment and before the Byzantine reoccupation. The Byzantine and early Islamic phases yielded no evidence of military presence at the site. Instead the early Islamic settlement at Yotvata should be understood within the context of the intensive economic development of the hinterland of Aila, which was based on agriculture, mining, and trade.

One of our most intriguing finds comes from an enigmatic niche cut into the east wall of the fort, inside the main gate. The bottom part of the niche contained a built stone platform

with steps. The fill inside the niche yielded a Greek ostrakon that apparently lists products such as dates. One person mentioned in the ostrakon is described as a "Shivtaite," that is, a native of the town of Shivta in the central Negev. This ostrakon therefore attests to contacts between the southern Arava and central Negev during the first half of the fourth century. Our excavations also revealed that a Roman military bathhouse to the north of the fort (and contemporary with it) is much larger than Meshel thought, including a substantial frigidarium and paved entrance area.

Other finds from our excavations include pottery that will form the basis for the establishment of a typology of local wares, glass, animal bones, and hundreds of bronze coins. Specialists are now preparing reports on all of these categories of finds. The ASOR Heritage Fellowship will help cover the processing of this material, specifically the cleaning and conservation of the coins and other metal objects, radiocarbon dating of selected organic materials (especially important for the two later occupation phases since so far we have found no coins that postdate the fourth century), and Neutron Activation Analysis of the pottery (at the University of Missouri).

We are grateful to ASOR and the donors for your generous support of the Yotvata excavations. ❄️



Liz Warkentin, University of Toronto

My summer with the Tell Tayinat excavation was a rewarding and educational experience. As a Master's student in Near Eastern Archaeology at the University of Toronto, the Platt Fellowship afforded me the opportunity to work in Anatolia, which allowed me to gain practical field experience and broaden my understanding of another cultural region in the Near East. I am particularly interested in this excavation project because it has yielded strong evidence of inter-regional connections with other Mediterranean cultural groups that can be used to establish parallels with other areas where I have worked: Greece and Egypt.

My role with the excavation was as a square supervisor. I had a co-supervisor to assist with my duties, which were to coordinate the activities of the local workers assigned to



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my square. I was also responsible for excavating, recording, and carrying out the preliminary processing of the material that came from our square. The primary objective in my square this year was to gain further horizontal exposure of Building XIV, a presumed Iron II palace structure originally identified in the 1930s excavations of this site. Our excavations did reveal more of the monumental mudbrick structure, as well as producing figurines, beads, metal fragments, and pottery dating to the Early Bronze Age, as well as both the Iron I and Iron II period.

I am most grateful for the fellowship that was awarded me because without it I would not have been able to partake in this opportunity due to financial obstacles.

I look forward to returning to the project next year and continuing and broadening my education of Near Eastern archaeology. ✨

Melanie Poupart, McGill University

During the months of May and June 2007, with the help of a \$1500 Platt Fellowship from ASOR, I participated in a Middle Paleolithic survey and excavation in the Wadi Zarqa Ma'in near the Madaba plain in Jordan. The project is under co-direction of Dr. April Nowell (U. Victoria) and Dr. Michael Bisson (McGill U.). Over the course of the season, Dr. Bisson and I surveyed the WZM-2 area, consisting of a road-side, ploughed wheat field rich in Middle Paleolithic lithics. We systematically collected diagnostic artefacts from the area, recording the location of each with a Garmin GPS unit.



Uploading the data on a daily basis into mapping software ArcGIS, I was able to perform preliminary spatial analyses on the artefacts. The perimeter of the area was recorded, as were the exact paths ("tracks") taken on daily survey to ensure even coverage of the area. Collected artefacts were washed, labelled, and bagged for further lab analysis. I am presently working on attribute analysis of these lithics with Dr. Bisson, which I then enter into ArcGIS to determine spatial pattern-

ing. This analysis will provide the basis for my Master's Thesis; my preliminary results will be presented at next year's Paleoanthropology Society's Meeting in Vancouver, B.C.

This project has revealed the richness of the area for Middle Paleolithic research, and further seasons will be required to expand the survey area and begin excavation of a likely artefact horizon found 40cm below the surface. The Platt Fellowship has been instrumental in allowing my participation in this project. ✨

Alexandra Ratzlaff, Boston University

In June of 2007, I was fortunate enough to participate in the fifth and final season of excavations at the Roman fort at Yotvata. The project is under the co-direction of Dr. Jodi Magness (UNC-Chapel Hill) and Dr. Gwyn Davies (Florida International University). The Roman fort at Yotvata lies approximately 40 km north of Eilat, in the southern Arava valley of Israel. In 1985, a Latin monumental inscription was accidentally discovered; the inscription was originally set above the entrance to the east gate and indicates that the fort was constructed in ca. 300 C.E.

As supervisor of Area 7000, it has been my duty to oversee excavation of the fort's southwest corner tower, postern gate and its associated corridor, the interior room in the southwest corner, and the continued excavation of a collapsed staircase adjacent to the tower and interior room. My team and I focused our attention toward understanding the relationship between the various structures in our area, such as the postern gate, collapsed staircase, tower entrance and postern corridor. The presence of such varied architectural features provided an excellent opportunity for us to get a broader view of the construction process and activities carried out at the fort. I instructed the volunteers under my supervision in a variety of excavation and recording techniques. It has always been rewarding to share in the volunteer's excitement in finding their first artifact and the realization that the mound of dirt they began excavating at the beginning of the season is now clearly a defined structure, such as a room with an entrance or a staircase leading to a previously unknown second-story. A variety of objects were discovered in our area; they include pottery ranging from fragments of oil lamps, amphora, even several sherds of fine ware. Several iron objects, including nails, were also found in Area 7000. Some of the most interest-



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ing finds from the 2007 season included significant amounts of plaster (white, red and black) in several parts of our area, including on the exterior and interior of the postern gate and the wall of an interior room. A deposit of camel bones was uncovered in our postern gate corridor. This was not the first instance in which camel bones were discovered within the fort. After the postern gate and tower were completely excavated, the relationship in the construction of both features revealed how a locking mechanism passed through the interior of the tower wall and behind the postern door, securing it in place as it locked in the rock-cut beam slot in the opposite gate wall. These finds will be very useful as we analyze the fort's presence and development over its approximately sixty years of occupation.

During my four years on staff at the Yotvata excavations, I have had the opportunity to learn many of the details surrounding the construction and occupation of the Roman army stationed in an eastern province of the empire. The experience I had working at Yotvata served as the impetus to pursue my dissertation topic related to the Roman military presence in Judaea/Palaestina. In addition to my work at the site, I have also had the wonderful opportunity to visit many sites throughout Israel as part of our excavation field-trip program, even traveling to neighboring Jordan and Egypt to gain a complete experience of the archaeological history of the region. Touring the many sites, especially in the Negev helps set our fort in the context of provincial landscape.

With the financial support provided through my Heritage Grant, I was able to pay for my travel expenses associated with the excavation. I am very grateful to ASOR and my Heritage donor's assistance in allowing me to participate in my fourth season at Yotvata. ❁

Suzanne Richard
Gannon University

The Khirbet Iskander Expedition received a Heritage grant to enable the completion of a GPS survey of Khirbet Iskander during the 2007 excavation season. I am happy to report that, thanks to this grant, the Khirbet Iskander Expedition was able to complete this work. We are deeply indebted to the Heritage members for this financial assistance and, of course, will acknowledge such in all publications.

The 2007 season took place between June 1 and July 9, an intense 6 day/week work schedule. The results of the season were highly successful regarding the objections in the field to expose complete architectural units in the EB III urban level and to investigate further the outer fortifications. A major goal, however, was to resurvey the site using GPS technology to build a high resolution Digital Elevation Model (DEM) and a centimeter-level accuracy map tied to a UTM grid in a format compatible with GIS software packages such as ESRI's ArcGIS. This was achieved this summer. The project now has an accurate topographic map of the site and vicinity of Khirbet Iskander.

The grant award through the Heritage program covered a portion of the expenses associated with hiring Prof. Fawwaz Ishakat, a GPS/GIS professor at Hashemite University, Jordan, who has worked with numerous expeditions in the country. Building upon earlier work in the 2004 season, as well as a brief survey in 2006, Prof. Ishakat was able to 1) survey all the preserved architecture on the site, 2) trace the surface lines of the fortifications on the site, and 3) survey the vicinity of the site, including the various excavation cemeteries.

Prof. Ishakat likewise provided substantial post-excavation services producing final AutoCad and GIS maps through the fall of 2007. Thanks to him, the project now has a 15 km map in UTM of the vicinity of Khirbet Iskander obtained from the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center (RJGC). He has spent a great deal of time superimposing his topographic map and adjusting the architectural plans onto the RJGC map. Indeed, he continues to assist me while I am in Jordan (as the ACOR CAORC fellow during the spring of 2008) in the preparation of maps for final publication. Thus, please know that the funds provided by this award have been well spent!

This project is thus nearing completion with the finalization of a series of maps to include in a final excavation report being submitted for publication. Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to the Heritage donor and to the committee for making available these critical grants for ASOR archaeological projects. ❁

Announcing the ASOR 2008 Open Archaeology Prize

Rewarding open access to scholarly work

About: The Open Archaeology Prize is an award for the best open-access, open-licensed, digital contribution to Near Eastern archaeology by an ASOR member. This competition is open to all ASOR members. Members may submit their own project or nominate the project of another ASOR member. A panel of scholars will judge the quality and significance of submitted materials. Evaluations will be based on the project's scholarly merits and its potential for reuse in research or teaching. To be eligible, projects must be freely available on the Web and downloadable in an open, reusable format.

Examples of Eligible Projects:

- A published paper with accompanying data (in spreadsheet format)
- Digital materials (videos, games, slideshows) to enhance museum exhibits or instruction
- Open source software (and its documentation) that can further scholarship in the archaeological community
- A "library" of media (such as slides) with associated metadata (keywords, notes, etc.)
- A video or slide show with accompanying source files and materials that facilitate reuse
- A specialist database (such as a faunal or plant assemblage, or a corpus of seals, beads, or ceramics), with contextual information and photos, if available

The deadline for submissions is October 17, 2008.

Full guidelines for participation will be available in the summer newsletter and on the ASOR website. In the meantime, email any questions to skansa@alexandriarchive.org. Last year's winners can be viewed online in the ASOR winter 2007 newsletter here: [http://www.asor.org/News_57\(4\).pdf](http://www.asor.org/News_57(4).pdf).

AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH 2008 ANNUAL MEETING BULLETIN

The Westin Boston Waterfront
November 19-22, 2008

I. General Instructions

Members of the American Schools of Oriental Research are invited to attend the 2008 Annual Meeting of ASOR in Boston, Massachusetts, November 19-22.

A. Rules for Participation

1. **Membership:** Membership in ASOR (either Individual or Institutional) is a prerequisite for participation in the Annual Meeting program. The only exception to this is for students enrolled at an institutional member school. Participants must include their membership number or list their affiliated member institution on the Participation/Abstract Form. A list of member institutions is available at www.asor.org/corpmem.html. Membership numbers are printed on the upper left of ASOR mailing labels. If you are certain that your membership is current and cannot locate your membership number, please make a notation to this effect on the registration form. Please remind your participants that they must be professional members of ASOR unless they are students of institutional member schools. Per board policy, associate membership is not adequate for presenting at the Annual Meeting. All current members will be sent the ASOR Summer Newsletter that includes the Annual Meeting Program Guide listing the meeting schedule.

2. **Preregistration:** Preregistration is a requirement for all participants in the Annual Meeting Program. All program participants must submit a Preregistration Form (with payment) to the ASOR Boston office prior to April 1, and proof of their preregistration and current membership status will be checked and approved by the ASOR Boston Office. A preregistration form is posted on the web in both pdf and online form format (available after January 1st). A web page listing those preregistered for the Annual Meeting will be available so that you may check the status of our presenters (beginning March 1st). The ASOR office also sends confirmation letters by email to those who have registered. Visiting non-North American scholars and

scholars whose main area of research is not Near Eastern archaeology may be exempted from one or both of the membership and registration requirements but only if they have not participated in the Annual Meeting in recent years. It is the Section Chair's responsibility to review the Participation/Abstract forms for waiver requests and ask for approval of any waivers from the Vice President of Programs, Eric Cline (ehcline@gwu.edu).

Waivers: The normal policy for making presentations at the ASOR Annual Meeting requires ASOR membership and the registration fee, there may be a few situations in which exceptions might be appropriate. Waivers are normally limited to scholars at risk and other extraordinary cases. In order to be approved for a waiver, the participant must not have previously participated in our Annual Meeting (previous participation can be checked by the ASOR office at 617-353-6570 or asor@bu.edu). Please contact Alexandra Ratzlaff (Meeting & Program Coordinator) at asor@bu.edu with requests for waivers - she will forward these requests to the Vice Presidents for Programs and the Executive Director for evaluation. Your participant may also request a waiver themselves using the Participation/Abstract form, but it is the Section Chair's responsibility to follow through with these requests. Please understand that waivers are rarely granted.

3. **Two Appearance Policy:** Members may be the primary author of one paper and either: chair or preside at one session, OR be a respondent/discussant/panelist in one section or roundtable/workshop, OR co-author an additional paper. Persons may participate only two times on the program in any capacity. (Business meetings and receptions are exempt.)

4. **Normal Length of Presentations:** The Program Committee recommends that presentations normally fit into 20-30 minute time slots, allowing time for discussion if desired. All presenters and chairs are expected to attend the meetings. If a presenter cannot attend, he or she should submit the paper to the session chair so arrangements can be made for it to be read. In the case

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of presenters who do not show up for the meetings, the session should not be rearranged or modified.

5. Lindstrom Student Service Scholarships: Students who wish to volunteer to work during the meetings are invited to apply for a Lindstrom Student Service Scholarship. The Lindstrom Scholarships will provide \$500 per student. Students will be expected to provide up to 20 hours work assistance at the meetings. Interested individuals should contact the ASOR Office.

6. Dorot Annual Meeting Travel Scholarship: ASOR Members who are permanent residents of the U.S. and Canada, enrolled in a program of graduate or advanced professional studies, and in ABD status or otherwise in the final year of candidacy for their degree program may apply for the Dorot Foundation Annual Meeting Travel Scholarship. These scholarships provide up to \$1000 for expenses related to travel to, and housing at the Annual Meeting. Interested individuals should consult the Annual Meeting web page for more information or contact the ASOR office.

Deadline for Lindstrom Student Service Scholarships and Dorot Annual Meeting Travel Scholarships applications is September 18, 2008.

SESSIONS AT 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

- ACOR at 40
- Ancient Mediterranean Trade
- Arabia
- Archaeology and the Media: How to Put the Record Straight
- Archaeology of Anatolia
- Archaeology of Cyprus
- Archaeology of Iran
- The Archaeology of Israel—New Developments
- Archaeology of Jordan
- Archaeology of Lebanon
- Archaeology of Mesopotamia
- Archaeology of Religion and the Sacred
- Archaeology of Syria
- Art and Artifacts of the Ancient Near East: Context, Content, Contacts
- Artifacts: The Inside Story
- Byzantine and Early Islamic Near East
- Caesarea Maritima
- Christianity and Judaism in Late Antiquity: Cultures, Connections, and Contrasts

- Current Issues in Palestinian Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management
- Eastern Mediterranean Diasporas: Cultural and Economic Implications
- The Edom Lowlands Project: Theory, Methods, and Interpretations
- Egypt and Canaan
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing, and Archaeology
- Hebrew Bible, History and Archaeology
- The History of Archaeology
- Household Archaeology in the Bronze and Iron Age Levant
- Individual Submissions
- In the Footsteps of J. Lawrence Angel: Bioarchaeology in the Near East and Eastern Mediterranean
- Landscape Archaeology
- The Maritime World of Ancient Cyprus
- Material Culture of Ottoman Syria-Palestine: Cities as Links between the Ottoman Imperial Center and the Syro-Palestinian Countryside
- Order and Conflict: Roundtables on the Agency Role of Empires in the Levant
- Philistia and the Philistines during the Iron Age
- Prehistoric Archaeology
- Problems in Ceramic Typology
- Ramat Rahel Revisited: Summarizing Four Years of the Renewed Project of Excavations at Ramat Rahel
- Recent Iron Age Discoveries at Ashkelon
- The Red Sea in Antiquity: Archaeology, Trade, and Cultural Exchange
- Reports on Current Excavations—ASOR Affiliated
- Reports on Current Excavations—Non ASOR Affiliated
- Roman Aqaba Project
- Settlement and Society in the Ancient Near East
- Theoretical and Anthropological Approaches to Near Eastern and East Mediterranean Art and Archaeology
- The Ties that Bind: Social Integration in Near Eastern Antiquity
- The Ties that Unwind: Social Disintegration in Near Eastern Antiquity
- The World of Women: Gender and Archaeology



HOTEL RESERVATION FORM for ASOR Annual Meeting 2008

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY OCTOBER 17, 2008 TO RECEIVE THESE ROOM RATES

Group: American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR)
Meeting Dates: November 19 – 22, 2008
Meeting Rates Available: November 16 –25, 2008
Group Rates: \$165.00 for a single, double, triple or quad.

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Special Requests:

*ETA = estimated Time of Arrival
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Fax form to: 617-532-4630 Or call for a reservation: (617)-532-4600
 The Westin Boston Waterfront
 425 Summer Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210



2008 ASOR ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

NOVEMBER 19 - 22 ♦ BOSTON, MA

Register online at www.asor.org/AM/preregsecure.html

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REGISTRATION FEE [circle appropriate fee]:

2008 membership dues must be paid prior to registration to receive member rates.

	<u>Supersaver</u> (April 3 - Nov. 3)	<u>Regular</u> (Nov. 4- Nov.22)
Member	\$ 125	\$ 200
Nonmember	200	225
1st Time Attendee + New	130	175
Assoc. Member		
Retired Prof. Member	115	175
Student Prof. Member	80	125
Student at ASOR Inst. Member School	60	100
1st Time Student Member Attendee*	25	40
Spouse/Partner**	70	110
1-Day Member	100	135
1-Day New Assoc. Member	95	135
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Note: paper presenters must be registered as a professional or student member (not assoc. member)

* Students at ASOR member schools who are first time attendees also qualify for this special rate

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Email: asormtgs@bu.edu

ASOR AFFILIATED PROJECTS 2007-2008

CYPRUS

Field:

Athienou Archaeological Project (Michael Toumazou, Davidson College, Derek B. Counts, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, P. Nick Kardulias, College of Wooster)

Bronze Age Rural Ecology and Landscape Formation on Cyprus (S. Falconer and P. Fall, Arizona State University)

Lampeter Archaeological Project (L. Steel, University of Wales Lampeter)

Excavations at Neolithic Ais Yiorkis (A. Simmons, UNLV)

Dreamer's Bay Ancient Port Project (J. R. Leonard and D.A. Parks, B.A. Ault, Lake Forest College, Brock University, and SUNY Buffalo)

The Pyla-Koutsopetria Archaeological Project (R. Moore and W. Caraher, Indiana University of Pennsylvania)

Souskiou Project: Community Integration in Prehistoric Cyprus (E. Peltenburg, University of Edinburgh)

Publications:

Excavations at Kourion's Amathus Gate Cemetery (D. Parks, Brock University)

Sotira Kaminoudhia (S. Swiny, SUNY Albany)

Troodos Survey Project (M. Given, V. Kassianidou, A. B. Knapp, J. Noller, University of Glasgow)

Vasilikos Valley Project (I.A. Todd & A. South, Kalavassos)

EGYPT

Publications

Wadi Tumat Project (J.S. Holladay, Jr., University of Toronto)

ISRAEL

Field:

Aegean Interactions with the Levant at Tel Kabri - (E. Cline, George Washington University, A. Yasur-Landau, Tel Aviv University)

Excavations at Tel Kedesh of the Upper Galilee (S. Herbert, A. Berlin, University of Michigan)

Excavations at Tel Zahara (S.L. Cohen, Montana State University)

Khirbet Qana Regional Survey (D. R. Edwards, University of Puget Sound)

Lahav Research Project, Phase IV (O. Borowski, Emory University)

Zeitah Excavations (R.E. Tappy, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary)

Tel Gezer Excavation Project (S. M. Ortiz and S. Wolff, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Israel Antiquities Authority)

Publication

Studies of the MB and Later Fortifications at Gezer (J.D. Seger and J.W. Hardin, Mississippi State University)

Tell el-Hesi Regional Survey (J.A. Blakely and J.W. Hardin, Mississippi State University)

Tel Migne-Ekron (S. Gitin, Albright Institute, T. Dothan, Hebrew University)

Tell 'Ein Zippori (C. Meyers & E. Meyers, Duke University, J.P. Dessel, University of Tennessee)

Tell el-Wawiyat Excavation Project (B. Nakhai, University of Arizona, J.P. Dessel, University of Tennessee)

Combined Caesarea Expeditions (CCE)
(K.G. Holum, University of Maryland)

Caesarea Maritima Vault Project (W. J. Bennett, Archaeological Assessments, Inc.)

Excavations at the Roman Fort at Yotvata (Jodi Magness, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Gwyn Davies, Florida International University)

Excavations at Gesher (S.L. Cohen, Montana State University)

Gezer IV: Objects from Phases I and II (W.G. Dever, J. Seger, Hebrew Union College)

Gezer Gateway Project, Gezer Field III (J.S. Holladay, Jr., University of Toronto)

Joint Archaeological Expedition to Tell el-Hesi (J.A. Blakely, Tell el-Hesi Board)

Lahav Research Project, Phases I-II (J.D. Seger, Mississippi State University)

Lahav Research Project, Phase III (P. Jacobs, Mississippi State University, O. Borowski, Emory University)

Neo-Assyrian Empire in the 7th century (S. Gitin, Albright Institute and CAORC)

Promontory Palace Excavations at Caesarea Maritima (K. L. Gleason, B. Burrell, and E. Netzer, University of Pennsylvania Museum)

Sepphoris Regional Project (E. Meyers, C. Meyers, J. Reed, Duke University)

JORDAN

Field:

Archaeological Expedition to Khirbet Iskander and its Environs (S. Richard and J. Long, Gannon University)

Ayl to Ras an-Naqb Archaeological Survey (B. MacDonald, St. Francis Xavier University)

Bioarchaeology of North Jordan (Ya'amun) (J.C. Rose, University of Arkansas, M. El-Najjar, Yarmouk University)

Bir Madhkur Project (A.M. Smith II, Dowling College)

Edom Lowlands Project (T. Levy and M. Najjar, University of California at San Diego and Department of Antiquities Jordan)

Humayma Excavation Project (B. Reeves, Queen's University)

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Karak Resources Project (G.L. Mattingly and J. H. Pace, Johnson Bible College and Elon University)

Madaba Plains Project - Hesban Restoration Project (O.S. LaBianca, Andrews University, B. Walker, Andrews University)

Madaba Plains Project - 'Umayri (L. Herr and , D. R. Clark, La Sierra University with a consortium)

Madaba Plains Project - Tall Jalul - (R. W. Younker, Andrews University)

Petra North Ridge Project - (M.A. Perry, East Carolina University)

Petra Garden & Pool Complex Excavation (L.-A. Bedal, Pennsylvania State Erie/The Behrend College)

Tell Madaba Archaeological Project - (T.P. Harrison and D. Foran, University of Toronto)

Wadi ath-Thamed Project - (P. M. Daviau, Wilfrid Laurier University)

Publications:

Umm al-Jimal Project - (B. de Vries, Calvin College)

Expedition to the Dead Sea Plain - (R.T. Schaub, ASOR)

Hesban Final Publication Project - (O.S. LaBianca, Andrews University, and L.T. Geraty, La Sierra University)

Publication of the Excavations at Tell er-Rumayth (N. Lapp, ASOR)

P.W. Lapp's Excavations at Araq el-Emir - (N. Lapp, ASOR)

Roman Aqaba Project - (S.T. Parker, North Carolina State University)

Tell Nimrin Project - (D. McCreery, Willamette University, J. Flanagan, Case Western Reserve University)

Archaeological Expedition to Khirbet Iskander and its Environs (S. Richard and J. Long, Gannon University)

 **SYRIA**

Field:

Renewed Excavations at Tell Qarqur (R.H. Dornemann, ASOR)

 **TUNISIA**

Publications:

Carthage Child Sacrifice - Punic Project (L. Stager and J. Greene, Semitic Museum & Harvard University)

 **TURKEY**

Field:

Excavations at an Iron Age Shipwreck at Kekova Adasy (Elizabeth S. Greene, Brock University)

Mopsos Landscape Archaeological Project (Iskenderun Bay, Cilicia) (Ann E. Killebrew, Penn State University, Gunnar Lehmann, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, and Marie-Henriette Gates, Bilkent University)

Tayinat Archaeological Project (T.P. Harrison, University of Toronto)

 **WEST BANK**

Publication

Ta'anach Excavations (N. Lapp, ASOR/Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Hamed Salem, Birzeit University)

Joint Expedition to Tell Balatah/Schechem (E. Campbell, Drew-McCormick Archaeological Expedition)

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**Donations received by June 30, 2008 will be applied to fiscal year 2008 (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008).*



THE CAARI CORNER

Thomas W. Davis Director

January was a month of great change for Cyprus as we exchanged our Cyprus Pounds for Euros. We are now more fully ASOR's European face, fully integrated into the Eurozone. The change to the Euro has increased inflationary pressures in Cyprus, which combined with the weakness of the dollar will, we fear, have a visible negative impact on our programs and services.

During this period, the functioning of CAARI as the only foreign school of its kind in Cyprus was maintained through improvements to the library's collections and a busy program of academic activities. I am happy to inform the ASOR membership that the American Ambassador to Cyprus has appointed me to the Fulbright Commission in Nicosia. This will serve to increase CAARI's visibility in the scholarly community here.

Our Fulbright scholar for 2008, Dr. Justine Andrews, has arrived and will be in residence until July. Dr. Andrews teaches at the University of New Mexico and is researching Gothic architecture in Nicosia and Famagusta. She will be speaking at CAARI in May on the topic: "Nicosia and Famagusta: memory, desire and identity in fourteenth century ecclesiastical architecture." Mr. Benjamin Costello, a PhD Candidate at SUNY Buffalo, is the 2007/2008 Student Fulbright Fellow at CAARI. Having arrived in mid-September, he will be staying at CAARI and in Episkopi during his fellowship tenure. He is working on publishing the ASOR-affiliated, University of Arizona excavations of David Soren at Kourion (1984-1987). I am, of course, very interested in this project since I was Soren's Field Director for 2 seasons on the Kourion acropolis.



On April 2nd, Mr. Costello will speak at CAARI on "Shaking Kourion: New Insights into the Earthquake House."

In February, the superb program of Directors' exchanges continues when Dr. Gerry Scott from ARCE in Cairo comes to CAARI and I head to Cairo. This program is funded thanks to the personal generosity of P.E. MacAllister, ASOR's Chairman of the Board. This has been an extremely successful program of exchanges between the Directors of the ASOR schools and directors of other eastern Mediterranean American research institutes. In Nicosia, Dr. Scott will speak on "Preparing for the Future: the American Research Center in Egypt's Conservation Efforts." When I am in Cairo at the end of February, I will speak on "News from the Trenches: Archaeology on Cyprus in 2007."

The library and hostel both witnessed moderate activity during this period with more than 70 individual students and researchers from 11 countries including Australia, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the USA. A young scholar from Japan studying Roman religion was our first resident from that country during my five year tenure. Nineteen students and staff from Macalester College in Minnesota stayed for four days in the middle of January, creating a total of 21 guests for those days. This far exceeds our normal limit of 13, but we squeezed them in!

Residents and library patrons researched a number of issues including Mycenaean pottery, Iron Age religion, Cypro-Geometric pottery, Late Antique cityscapes, Roman glass, medieval architecture, Byzantine churches, and modern history. The library added 50 individual works in the fields of Byzantine Studies and Medieval Studies, as well as Cypriote and Near Eastern Archaeology. CAARI's library expansion plans have been filed with the government of Cyprus and we await planning permission to begin construction.

Winter is not the normal excavation season in Cyprus, but we did escort researchers on five site visits. The French have begun excavations again at Amathus under the direction of Dr. Thierry Petit, and the Department of Antiquities recently concluded the excavation of an underground Bronze Age habitation in Erimi.

The public program at CAARI featured a series of public lectures and site tours. On October 8th, I lectured at the Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus on Biblical Archaeology. The public lecture series included a presentation in October from Alison South on Late Bronze Age Cyprus. In December, Ms. Emilia Vassiliou, a Cypriot scholar, gave a presentation entitled "Black Gold of Cyprus: The importance of Carobs in Cypriot History." Although

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attendance was slightly down due to a storm, the lively audience enjoyed the presentation immensely. The Australian High Commissioner was present; after the lecture, he sought me out and praised the breadth of CAARI's interests.

I had two speaking engagements during my annual November trip to the USA. Prior to the ASOR meetings, CAARI trustees Nicolaos Theophanous and Birgitta Wohl set up two lectures for me in California which were well received. On Monday November 12th, I lectured in Oakland at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension to an audience of about 100. On Tuesday November 13th, I lectured at the Fowler Museum at UCLA. On both occasions I spoke on "Current Archaeology in Cyprus."

As the only foreign research institute on Cyprus, CAARI has an important diplomatic role resulting in numerous meetings and social invitations for the Director and his wife. I met with staff of the United Nations Development Program on Cyprus to provide technical assistance and advice to the cultural heritage program. I met with the European Institute to discuss issues of mutual interest; the European Institute is an arm of the EU. Other meetings were held with American Embassy officials, the Danish Ambassador, and the Australian High Commissioner.

In January we purchased a new copier for the office. A donor has generously put up half of the cost. Mr. Tom Dailey, USAID representative in Nicosia retired at the end of December and returned to the USA. Tom gave CAARI numerous items from his home, including kitchen and glassware, framed engravings, and most generous of all, his 1996 Mitsubishi car which is in better condition than CAARI's automobile. In early February, we completed the formalities for the "new" used car.

Think about including Cyprus in your tour planning. CAARI has assisted many student groups who have come to the island on study tours in recent years. This winter, the Director escorted students from Macalester College and Denver Seminary on tours of the island.



CAARI has an updated internet presence with our newly designed website up and running. Contributions may now be made on line. Look us over at: www.caari.org ❄



HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTION ITEMS FROM THE FEBRUARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

- ❖ The Executive Committee (EC) welcomed new members Michael Homan and Morag Kersel (new co-Vice Presidents for programs).
- ❖ The EC approved a modest travel reimbursement, for those officers who requested it, to attend the February and September Executive Committee meetings.
- ❖ The EC referred appointments to the BASOR editorial board and an interim editor of NEA to the Committee on Publications (COP). The EC will vote on these positions after receiving a recommendation from COP.
- ❖ The EC approved the final audit and heard a report from Treasurer Sheldon Fox. ASOR finances also look good for 2008, and we are on target to end the year in the black.
- ❖ President Tim Harrison announced the appointment of a Personnel Committee to take over part of the duties previously handled by the Management Committee. The EC passed a motion to empower this Personnel Committee to act on behalf of the EC to evaluate the Executive Director annually.
- ❖ President Tim Harrison announced the decision to work with Treasurer Sheldon Fox and Board Chair P.E. MacAllister to reconstitute the Finance and Audit Committee (previously made up of members from the management committee).
- ❖ In light of the Personnel and Finance Committees, the Management Committee announced its decision to cease functioning until the May board meeting. The EC then passed a resolution affirming the Management Committee to "cease functioning, relegating its tasks to other agencies and bodes in ASOR."
- ❖ The EC passed a resolution affirming President Tim Harrison's intention to re-evaluate the role of the Development Committee before a new VP of Development is appointed (Terry Hofecker resigned effective December 31, 2007).
- ❖ The EC passed a resolution endorsing the Digital Archaeological Atlas of the Holy Land and agreeing for ASOR to be listed as a sponsor without financial obligations or implications.
- ❖ The EC discussed the eligibility criteria for ASOR/CAP affiliation and heard a report from Vice President Ann Killebrew. The EC requested that CAP bring a proposal to the EC and ASOR board.
- ❖ President Tim Harrison led a discussion on governance and announced his intention to form an ad hoc committee to reevaluate the ASOR governance structure.
- ❖ Vice President Tammi Schneider led a discussion of the role of the Membership Committee and outlined goals for the next year.
- ❖ The EC heard a report from Vice President of Publications Jeffrey Blakely. The report outlined how NEA is coming close to being up-to-date, and should be current by June 2008.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

May 1-3, 2008

The Third University of Chicago Eurasian Archaeology Conference, "Regimes and Revolutions: Power, Violence, and Labor in Eurasia Between the Ancient and the Modern" will be hosted by Graduate Students of The University of Chicago Anthropology and Near East Languages and Civilizations Departments. <http://acc.spc.uchicago.edu/eurasianconference/>

May 23-25, 2008

The Theoretical Archaeology Group of Columbia University's Center for Archaeology will be hosting its Annual Meeting at Columbia University in New York, NY. <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/archaeology/conference/tag/callforpapers.htm>

June 14-20, 2008

Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology (SPMA), St John's, Newfoundland, <http://www.spma.org.uk/>

June 15-19, 2008

12th Annual Conference on Ground Penetrating Radar University of Birmingham, UK, www.gpr2008.org.uk

June 24-July 4, 2008

The 6th WAC (World Archaeological Congress), WAC-6, will be held in Ireland at the University College Dublin. <http://www.ucd.ie/wac-6/>

September 16-21, 2008

14th Annual General Meeting, The European Association of Archaeologists <http://events.um.edu.mt/ea2008/>

November 1-3, 2008

AAR's Annual Meeting, with an international focus on South Asia, is to be held in Chicago, Illinois.

http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual_Meeting/Current_Meeting/default.asp

November 19-22, 2008

ASOR Annual Meeting, The Westin Boston Waterfront, <http://www.asor.org>

November 21-25, 2008

SBL's (Society of Biblical Literature) 2008 Annual Meeting will be held in Boston, Massachusetts. The Annual Meeting is the largest gathering of biblical scholars in the world. <http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/annualmeeting.aspx>

December 29-31, 2008

Orion Center for the Study of Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature's Twelfth International Symposium, "The Hebrew of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Ben Sira," will take place at the Hebrew University, Mount Scopus. This will be the first Orion Center symposium to focus on the language of the Dead Sea Scrolls and associated literature. It will also be the fifth international gathering of scholars who study the language and literature of Hebrew during the Second Temple Period. <http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/symposiums/upcoming.shtml>

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT ASOR FINANCES ENDING JUNE 30, 2007

Assets	30-Jun 2007	2006	Liabilities and Net Assets	30-Jun 2007	2006
Cash and cash equivalents	\$499,213	\$406,761	LIABILITIES:		
Investments	\$863,063	\$777,934	Accrued expenses	\$23,425	\$39,378
Accounts Receivable	\$ 66,722	106,706	Deferred revenue	\$354,041	\$265,960
Memberships and subscriptions, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$22,500 and \$35,000 at June 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively			Other liabilities	<u>\$10,621</u>	<u>\$12,018</u>
Book Sales	\$ 6,250	20,567			
Other receivables			Total Liabilities	\$388,087	\$317,356
Inventory and capitalized costs	\$ 21,550	36,491	NET ASSETS:		
Prepaid expenses and other assets	\$ 6,458	7,008	Unrestricted:		
Furniture, fixtures and equipment, net	\$ 6,118	8,523	Operations	\$ 23,624	\$54,358
Total Assets	<u>\$1,469,374</u>	<u>\$1,363,990</u>	Board designated	\$ 178,032	\$115,552
			Property and Equipment	\$ 6,118	\$8,523
			Temporarily Restricted	\$ 207,774	\$178,433
			Permanently Restricted	\$ 443,918	\$441,530
			Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 1,081,287</u>	<u>\$1,046,634</u>
			Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 1,469,374</u>	<u>\$1,363,990</u>

Center Update from Barbara Porter, ACOR Director in Amman

As I write in mid-February 2008, Jordan is expecting its second large snow storm in a month. At the end of January, the country was virtually closed down for three days.

January 22-25 took me to Jerusalem as part of the ASOR sponsored Directors' Exchange. I left Amman in a snow storm and was fortunate that Bob Darby (Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellow at the Albright) met me at the northern crossing. As one of the purposes of the trip was to get to know the Albright fellows, this proved to a good start. The same can be said for the field trip planned the next morning as part of the program organized by Ben Dolinka (Ernest S. Frerichs Fellow/Program Coordinator). That morning we were given an extensive and fascinating tour of the Western Wall tunnel in the Old City by Dan Bahat.

For my second evening in Jerusalem, the Albright hosted a dinner, after which I spoke about my background, career, and plans for ACOR. My formal lecture on "ACOR's Petra Church Excavations" was scheduled the next day for tea time. I was very impressed by the generous spread of cakes offered to the attendees. Given that a large part of my talk concentrated on the mosaic floors of the Petra Church, I took note that in the diverse audience were both Professor Asher Ovadiah, the author of *Hellenistic, Roman and Early Byzantine Mosaics Pavements in Israel* (Rome, 1987 with R.Ovadiah) and Father Michele Piccirillo, whose book *Mosaics of Jordan* (Amman, 1992) is one of ACOR's bestsellers.



ACOR in the snow on February 1, 2008 (Photo courtesy of B. A. Porter)

It had been more than forty years since I had been in Jerusalem as I was last there with my family on a visit from Lebanon in April 1967. Because



Barbara Porter with Munira Said and Hisham M'farreh at his beautiful tea spread in the Albright (Photo Courtesy of B. Dolinka)

this was my first time at the Albright, it was great to get to know the center through a personal tour given by the director, time reading in the library, meals with the fellows, and exchanges with staff. I very much appreciated the hospitality and was glad to have the chance to reciprocate when Sy Gitin came to ACOR a few weeks later—between snow storms—for the period of February 10-13. He gave his lecture on Tell Miqne/Ekron on the evening of February 12, and afterwards ACOR hosted a reception which gave him the chance to meet with many scholars and interested non-academics. He was also able to pay a call earlier that day on the Director General of Antiquities of Jordan, Dr. Fawwaz Al-Khraysheh, and for that meeting was accompanied by Chris Tuttle (ACOR Assistant Director).

During the period of this exchange visit, I was also occupied with observing—at the request of the Department of Antiquities—the return to locations in Amman of objects that had been part of the traveling exhibit on Petra curated by Glenn Markoe of the Cincinnati Art Museum. Staff members from that museum started arriving in Jordan on February 9 as they accompanied shipments of well designed crates on different flights of Royal Jordanian Airlines,



Sy Gitin and Barbara Porter in the ACOR Library (Photo courtesy of S. Pryor)

one of the major sponsors of the exhibit. In Petra Chris Tuttle represented ACOR in observing the unpacking and checking of the pieces there. A number of objects in the show were from ACOR excavations in Petra, the largest being the Nabataean niche found in the Petra Church and the Blue Pulpit restored from fragments uncovered in the Blue Chapel during Patricia Bikai's excavations. The substantial and intricate mounts for these two items were also shipped to Jordan. Pierre Bikai (ACOR director, 1991-2006) was very involved in the initial planning and packing for this exhibit that opened at the American Museum of Natural History in New York and was on view there until summer 2004. Because I lived in New York at the time, I visited this spectacular exhibition countless times. I can safely say that it never crossed my mind that four years later I would be an involved observer overseeing the return of these precious examples of Jordan's past after their extensive travels in North America.

This spring ACOR will focus on preparations for 40th anniversary celebrations. I look forward to chairing the session at the ASOR Annual Meeting in Boston on ACOR at 40, which will present the contributions of ACOR and ACOR related fieldwork in Jordan over the last forty years. ❄️

DR. MARTHA SHARP JOUKOWSKY, 2008 PLENARY SPEAKER

“FROM CENSURE TO ACCEPTANCE: WOMEN ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN NEAR EASTERN ARCHAEOLOGY”

“From Censure to Acceptance: Women Archaeologists in Near Eastern Archaeology.”

Dr. Martha Sharp Joukowsky will present the plenary address at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research.

Dr. Joukowsky is professor emerita and former director of the Center for Old World Archaeology and Art and Department of Anthropology at Brown University. She specializes in the Near East, and has directed the Brown University excavations at the Great Temple in Petra, in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, since 1992.



Dr. Joukowsky serves as Trustee Emerita of Brown University and as Trustee for the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. From 1989 to 1993 she was also elected as President of the Archaeological Institute of America.

In addition to conducting excavations in Lebanon, Hong Kong, Turkey, Italy, and Greece, Dr. Joukowsky has also published 6 books and over 50 academic articles. In 1981, Dr. Joukowsky co-founded the Joukowsky Family Foundation, a private charitable organization focused on giving to education. ❄

Dr. Joukowsky and her Majesty Queen Noor (1998).

EGYPTOLOGY FACULTY SEARCH

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University announces an open-rank search for an advanced tenure-track faculty member or a tenured professor in the field of Egyptology. The aim of this interdisciplinary search is to appoint an outstanding scholar whose research and teaching will complement the University’s current coverage of the civilizations of the ancient world, with a focus on the ancient Near East and Mediterranean. Applicants should be conversant with the art, archaeology, culture, and history of ancient Egypt, preferably in the third and second millennium BCE, and should also know ancient Egyptian, although it is not anticipated that the appointee will offer language instruction. The departmental affiliation of the appointee will be determined in light of his or her research and teaching program. A Ph.D. or equivalent and a distinguished record of scholarship and teaching are expected. Teaching duties will include courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Applicants should submit a letter of application, including a brief statement of current and future research and teaching interests, and a curriculum vitae with a complete bibliography, to Egyptology Search, c/o Ms. Janet Hatch, Harvard University, 201 Robinson Hall, 35 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2008. Harvard is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Applications from women and members of minority groups are strongly encouraged. ❄

DEVER PRIZE

The William F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem is pleased to announce the winner of the seventh annual competition for the Sean W. Dever Memorial Prize. This award offers \$650 for the best published article or paper presented at a conference by a Ph.D. candidate in Syro-Palestinian and Biblical Archaeology. Authors may be of any nationality but the article or paper must be in English.

This year’s winner is James F. Osborne of Harvard University. His paper is entitled “The Bench Tomb in Iron Age Judah: Secondary Mortuary Practice and Social Values.” It was presented at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research.

The Sean W. Dever Prize was established in 2001 by Professor William G. Dever and Mrs. Norma Dever, in memory of their son Sean. ❄

ASOR GRANTS FOR SUMMER 2008:

ASOR plans at least 27 excavation grants for summer 2008: Last summer (2007) ASOR awarded over \$36,000 in grants and fellowships for excavations and dig participants. A total of 20 awards were given. This summer (2008), ASOR hopes to award over \$50,000 in grants and fellowships for a total of at least 27 awards. ASOR plans an even expanded grant program for the summer of 2009, so bookmark the following webpages if you were not able to apply in time for:

- **Heritage Fellowships:** we anticipate 13-15 fellowships totaling at least \$26,000. These fellowships are funded directly from contributions from our Heritage members. Some of the awards are designated by the donors, and some of the awards are open to participants or excavation directors. Unless the donor specifies otherwise, these grants are limited to ASOR-affiliated excavations or participants at ASOR-affiliated excavations. Grant support will normally be between \$1,000 and \$2,000. Deadline for applications was March 20, 2008. Details can be found at <http://www.asor.org/heritage.htm>.

- **Platt Fellowships:** we anticipate 11 scholarships of \$1,200 each for excavation participants (either volunteers or staff members who do not receive travel support). Applicants must be ASOR members (or students enrolled at ASOR member schools). While we encourage applicants to participate in ASOR-affiliated digs, the fellowships are open to applicants to participate in any excavation in the eastern Mediterranean. Deadline for applications was March 20, 2008. Details can be found at <http://www.asor.org/platt.htm>.

- **Harris Grants:** The Harris Endowment provides modest grants to worthy field projects, particularly to newer and smaller projects, to help them get started; and to discrete components of larger projects that can be completed with an award. The Endowment also provides support for off-season research, analysis and publications. Most grants fall into the range of \$500-\$1,500. A total of \$6,000 will be awarded for 2008. Applications must be from ASOR-affiliated projects. Deadline for applications was March 1, 2008. Details can be found at <http://www.asor.org/capharris.html>

Come and See us at the **ASOR 2008 ANNUAL MEETING**

NOVEMBER 19–22, 2008
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WESTIN WATERFRONT HOTEL

For more information, online registration,
hotel reservations and meeting information,
log on to our web site at
www.asor.org/AM/am.html

A current registration form can be found
on page 13 of this Newsletter



With inquiries regarding membership in ASOR or for subscriptions to the journals NEA, JCS and BASOR, contact:

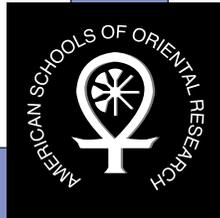
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