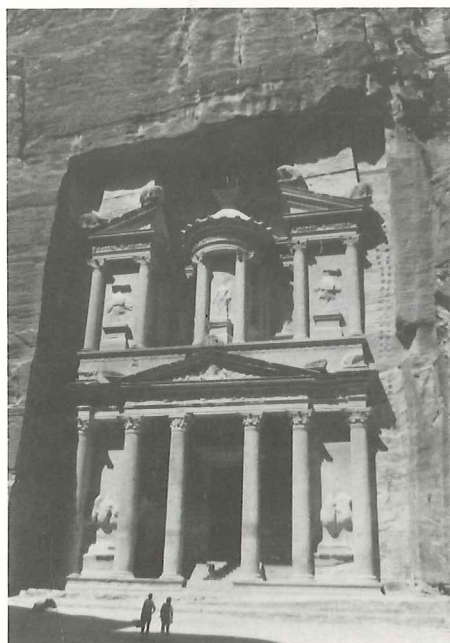


CONTEXT



Façade of the Khaznat al-Faroun, a rock-cut monument at the entrance to Petra, capital of the Nabataeans, in Jordan (see page 7).

Strangling the Past: Notes on a Winter Journey to Iraq

by Paul Zimansky and Elizabeth C. Stone

How much damage did Iraq's cultural heritage actually sustain in the Gulf War and its aftermath? Those of us who concern ourselves with ancient Mesopotamia are constantly asked this question, but until quite recently have only been able to pass on rumors. When the conflict was actually raging and hard information totally unavailable, the issue was sufficiently topical that newspaper and television reporters called forth "experts," ourselves included, to warn that an important chapter in human history was at risk. The image that seemed most gripping, and most compatible with sound-bite format, was of bombs destroying ancient temples and works of art. When the bombs stopped falling, the media lost interest.

The follow-up on these concerns has been almost nonexistent. What little news did come from Iraq, usually in the form of brief reports attributed to the Director of Iraq's Department of Antiquities and Heritage, Dr. Mu'ayad Said Damerji, more often than not concerned the status of collections removed from Kuwait—a country that in fact has almost no native antiquities. Given the controlled environment of Baghdad politics, people in the West accord little credibility to the pronouncements of Iraqi government functionaries anyway, particularly when they cannot be verified by independent sources. Members of the press who did get into post-war Iraq had other things than archaeology on their minds, so the "story" has languished.

There clearly is a story, however—one that is continuing and can hardly bring comfort to students of the world's first civilization. We came face to face with it in January 1992, when a journey to Iraq plunged us into one of the most intense and wrenching experiences of our lives. We cannot say that we were the first Western archaeologists to return to Iraq after the war, since we have heard vague rumors of one or two others who preceded us, but we may be the first to have done any traveling in the countryside.

It is not easy to get to Iraq these days. Even before the war, one normally had to be invited to come. Tourist visas were available only sporadically, so one needed a sponsor, which was the Department of Antiquities in our case. In the wake of the invasion of Kuwait, the United States government imposed a ban on travel to Iraq for all but journalists and relief missions, so even if an American archaeologist could somehow get in touch with Antiquities and secure a visa, the threat of draconian penalties on return to the United States remained.

Our opportunity to make the trip came from a completely unexpected source. Last summer an article in the *New York Times* alerted us to the work of Dr. Michael Viola, a Professor of Medicine at SUNY, Stony Brook, who leads an organization called Medicine for Peace. He had just returned from Iraq and was appalled at the situation there—the absence of electricity, med-

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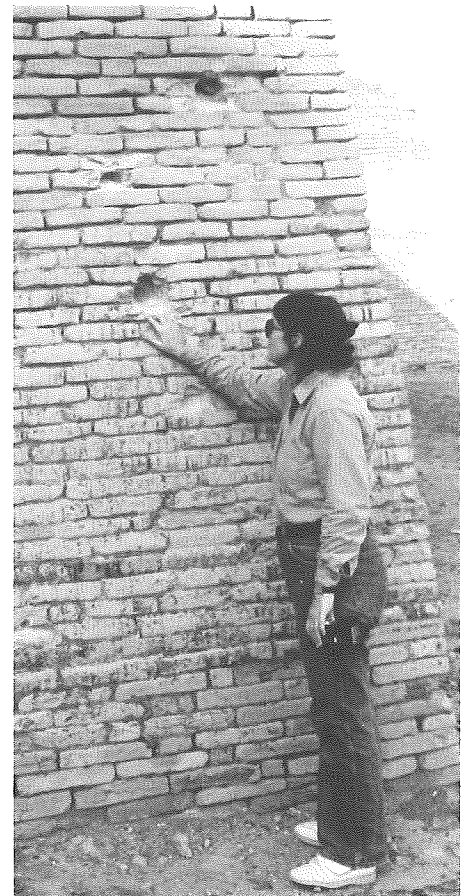
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Elizabeth Stone (left) views a bomb crater in front of the ziggurat at Ur, and (above) examines strafing damage to the ziggurat.

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 ical supplies, water purification, and even basic foodstuffs was killing thousands of children and threatening the lives of countless others. He had brought a one-year-old back to New York for cardiac surgery since this was no longer possible in her homeland and she would die without it, and wanted to put together a program of volunteer medicine to treat as many as possible of the thousands of other children who shared the same predicament.

We gave him a call, not just to let him know that we shared his concerns, but also out of curiosity to see if he knew anything about what was going on south of Baghdad in the region where we had lived and worked. He did not. He said the situation in Baghdad had been so bad there was no reason for him to go any farther.

In November, Dr. Viola called us.

Medicine for Peace was going back to Iraq to select four more children for surgery. They could use the help of some volunteers who knew the country, were not afraid to come along, and would not mind traveling halfway around the world holding a distraught and seriously ill child on their laps. We were glad to accept. We might have enough free time to look into things of archaeological interest. ABC News was sending a reporter along, so if anything dire should happen, it would at least take place under the scrutiny of a free press.

It would require an article much longer than this one, or perhaps a small book, to do justice to everything that happened on the trip. We must limit ourselves here to archaeology, and even in this sphere concentrate on a few points only. The reader must be aware that we were subject to a kind of sensory overload for the entire

week that we were in Iraq—jetlagged, fascinated, depressed, and constantly trying to make sense of a place that was familiar on the surface and utterly transformed underneath.

Physically things were in much better shape than we had expected. There was electricity and more or less clean water not just in Baghdad, but everywhere we went. Traffic was normal and beside each blown up bridge there was a functioning pontoon bridge. Shop windows displayed plenty of things for sale, and the former government buildings that are now piles of rubble were not places many people we knew frequented anyway. We could have driven through Baghdad without noticing that anything much had changed since we left in May 1990.

However, when we talked to people—and we spent a lot of time talking to people—we began to realize how superficial this all was. Some

had lost their youngest children in epidemics that followed the war and all were struggling to keep their families intact as Iraqi society unraveled under the enormous burden of the economic embargo. What they had to say indicated that things were anything but back to normal, and as our eyes sharpened to the subtleties, we began to realize that Iraq is a powder keg.

This was very much on our minds as we sought to find out as much as we could about the condition of Iraq's archaeological heritage. No one seemed to be interested in limiting our abilities to move around, and, had we had more time, there would have been no problem, from the Iraqi side, in our doing a much more extensive survey. We were able to visit several major sites in the south ourselves, and were shown documentation of damage to other sites and facilities. Our general assessment, however, is that the specifics pale in comparison to the general situation.

Damage to Iraq's antiquities has come in three waves: in the war itself, in the disorder of the immediate aftermath, and under the continuing strain of the embargo. Although it is hard to quantify cultural disasters, it appears that each succeeding wave was more destructive than the previous one. It is also clear that despite individual acts of courage, ingenuity, and sacrifice, the devastation has not yet abated.

Some archaeological sites were undoubtedly damaged by the bombing, but this was probably an exagger-

ated concern in the public imagination—at least in comparison to other factors. Most of the sites that contain the untapped sources of knowledge about mankind's early history look like, and in fact are, enormous piles of dried mud. Bombs can do little systemic damage to these, even if someone were fool enough to target them. The chance of blasting away a major cuneiform archive or a piece of monumental sculpture exists, but is relatively slim. There are a few sites dating to later periods, however, where this is not the case. For example, the great arch at the Parthian capital of Ctesiphon is extremely fragile and took a considerable shaking during the bombing of nearby military and nuclear facilities. Dr. Mu'ayad told us that the Department of Antiquities has completed its program of restoration there, and that cracks that appeared in the structure have been covered over.

The only site we visited where there was bomb damage was Ur, one of the few places actually mentioned in the press coverage of the war. Ur lies just outside of the city of Nasiriyah, in an area occupied by Allied forces in March 1991. At a press conference shortly after the bombing began, Secretary of Defense Cheney reported that the Iraqis were sheltering aircraft beside Ur's ziggurat. He did not say exactly what was going to happen next, but on March 28, 1991, the *Los Angeles Times* quoted a representative of the United States military who explained that, after going to great lengths to avoid bomb-

ing the site, the Allies eventually did attack with laser-guided missiles.

There was certainly plenty of evidence of the air attack. Four bomb craters are still clearly visible in the sacred precinct, and in one of them we could see broken bits of baked brick architecture. These were not in the parking lot in front of the ziggurat or on the access road to it, which is the only place where high-performance aircraft could have been parked. The southeastern face of the ziggurat itself is pockmarked with round, large calibre bullet holes—almost certainly the result of strafing since they all seem to come from the same direction and elevation. On the other hand, rumors—reported by Reuters—of massive thefts and vandalism of the site by U.S. troops were clearly unfounded. Except for the temenos area, the site looked very much as it had the last time we saw it, and the only evidence that it had changed hands in the course of a war was a single Pepsi-Cola can bearing the imprint of a Saudi bottler. None of the Iraqis we talked to at the site or in Baghdad had heard the rumor that American troops misbehaved here, so it is hard to say from where the Reuters story came.

We were later shown photographs of massive trenching at nearby Tell el-Lahm, an unexcavated Early Dynastic regional center. This was reportedly done by Allied forces, who may not have recognized it as an archaeological site. We regret that we did not hear about this in time to visit the site and assess the damage.

In Baghdad we visited a government-sponsored photographic exhibition of war damage and restoration which included displays by the Department of Antiquities. These made clear the disastrous consequences of the civil unrest that followed the cease-fire. Dr. Mu'ayad had told us that as the war approached, he had been concerned about what might happen if the National Museum were bombed, so he moved parts of the collection to the Department's facilities in other Iraqi cities. This may have made sense at the time, but when the Shiite and

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Bombing damage to exterior of Kufa Museum located in southern Iraq.

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Kurdish uprisings took place, the regional museums were exposed to looting. In Amara, Basra, and Kirkuk the museums were thoroughly ransacked as part of a more general campaign against government institutions in those cities.

By last fall, Dr. Mu'ayad had identified some 4,000 artifacts—including tablets, cylinder seals, bronzes, Islamic gold coins, etc.—that had disappeared as a result of this looting. He took a list of the missing items to UNESCO, the international agency responsible for disseminating such information to Interpol. UNESCO, unused to dealing with a theft of this magnitude, said they could do nothing until they were given a computerized version. This was no modest request, given the plague of computer viruses that the Allies inflicted on Baghdad as part of their war preparations. As he told us this, we could see the cadaver of one IBM clone that the technicians had given up on in the corner of Dr. Mu'ayad's office. Since our return, some of the stolen artifacts have begun to turn up on the illegal art markets of the United States and Europe. Stung by negative news reports, UNESCO decided it did have the capacity to copy the Iraqi ledgers and copies of them are now in the hands of Interpol and the other appropriate international agencies.

The theft and destruction of artifacts in the regional museums could have been much worse. When the Kurds retreated to the mountains after their rebellion failed last spring, they took with them trunks full of



Medicine for Peace delegation in Baghdad. Cardiac patient Sara is held by her father, beside Dr. Viola. Sara's surgery in New York last February was successful and she has returned to Iraq.

priceless Islamic manuscripts which had been sent from Baghdad to Kirkuk for safekeeping. As the trek got longer—and the trunks heavier—they abandoned them. Dr. Mu'ayad told us he was able to follow their trail and recover the manuscripts intact. Elsewhere some of the collections were saved through individual acts of heroism performed by members of the Department of Antiquities who slept in museums and at sites to defend them. Eqbal Qadhemi, a woman left alone in charge of the Nasariyah museum, successfully hid the collection in a back room and, from behind a veil, distracted brigands who came looking for something to steal. Fearing a second visit, she then moved the collection to her own house. The guard at the ancient site of Larsa was less fortunate. He succeeded in defending the French expedition house there—but

at the cost of his life.

Dr. Mu'ayad gave us his perspective on the "pilfering" of the National Museum of Kuwait, which was widely publicized last year as a case of Iraqis confiscating Kuwait's antiquities. He said they had in fact removed the collection to Baghdad for safekeeping before the winter fighting and had notified UNESCO of that fact. Had they not done so, the collection would almost certainly have been stolen. He and his staff had made an inventory of the objects, and took pride in recently having won a kind of guessing game with the Kuwaiti Director General of Antiquities, by returning objects numbering 30 percent more than the Kuwaitis claimed were missing.

As we talked to people and traveled around, we began to discern the specter of a greater threat to Mesopotamia's heritage, although nobody stated it explicitly. Iraq is not gradually returning to normal, as its official party line would have it. The economic embargo is exacting a heavy toll and basic issues of survival are on everybody's mind. Food prices have skyrocketed and salaries remain more or less the same—except for the military. Just how far out of whack things are hit us as we bought gasoline and lunch at a road stop beside a burned-out police post. Ten gallons of gas cost 2.5 dinars and a scrawny, spit-roasted chicken, barely enough to feed two of us, was 25 dinars. At that rate we could drive a car from Boston



Pilfering was in evidence in many museums. The photograph on the left shows a pillaged coin display in the museum at Kirkuk.

to Los Angeles for the price of one chicken, or, equivalently, two dozen eggs. Is gas cheap or food expensive? Iraqi wage-earners in middle level jobs (such as college professors) make about 250 dinars a month, and there is usually only one salary for each family with several children. The poor and middle class are selling off possessions like the gold of women's dowries, originally given as a kind of insurance to provide security in widowhood and old age. One father whose family we knew complained that his children were not learning anything in school because they did not have any paper to write on. The once relatively crime-free society is now rife with black-marketeering, theft, and, quite literally, highway robbery.

Despite Dr. Mu'ayad's reassuring presence, we could see plenty of signs that the Department of Antiquities no longer counts for much in this environment. All of its vehicles have been commandeered for other purposes and it still has no external telephones, although service has been restored to much of the rest of Baghdad. There are no archaeological expeditions in the field and the National Museum remains closed. Tourism is obviously on hold for a while—so much so that when, at the request of one of the doctors who was traveling with us, we stopped in at Babylon we found virtually no one there but the ticket taker and the gift shop operator. This was on a Friday, when before the war the place would have been crowded with Iraqi and foreign tourists.

The Department has little control over—or knowledge of—what is going on in the more remote parts of the countryside, where many of the most important sites are located. This state of affairs is partly because it is just plain dangerous to travel. Late one afternoon, as we approached Tell Abu Salabikh, about as far off the beaten path as one can get, a stranger slinging a semiautomatic over his shoulder emerged from a field to warn us that there were bandits around and we should not risk being in the area after sundown. At that moment, two shots rang out to punctuate his warning. They probably just

Farouk El-Baz Receives Golden Door Award

by Evelyn LaBree

Farouk El-Baz, internationally known desert expert and pioneer in satellite photography/remote sensing, has been awarded the prestigious Golden Door Award by the International Institute of Boston. Daniel Lam, President of the Institute, presented the award to the Egyptian-born geologist in recognition of his extraordinary career and achievements in the fields of geology, archaeology, and geography at a celebratory dinner at Anthony's Pier 4 on April 10, 1992.

The award is given by the

International Institute of Boston to an American citizen of foreign birth who has made a distinguished contribution to American life and culture. The Institute is a private, nonprofit, human services organization that assists refugees and immigrants to resettle in a new country. The award, which symbolizes the positive effect immigration has had on United States history, derives its name from Emma Lazarus' inscription at the base of the Statue of Liberty: "I lift my lamp be-
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Farouk El-Baz in his Center for Remote Sensing office in front of an enlarged picture of the shuttle, Columbia, aloft over the Arabian peninsula.

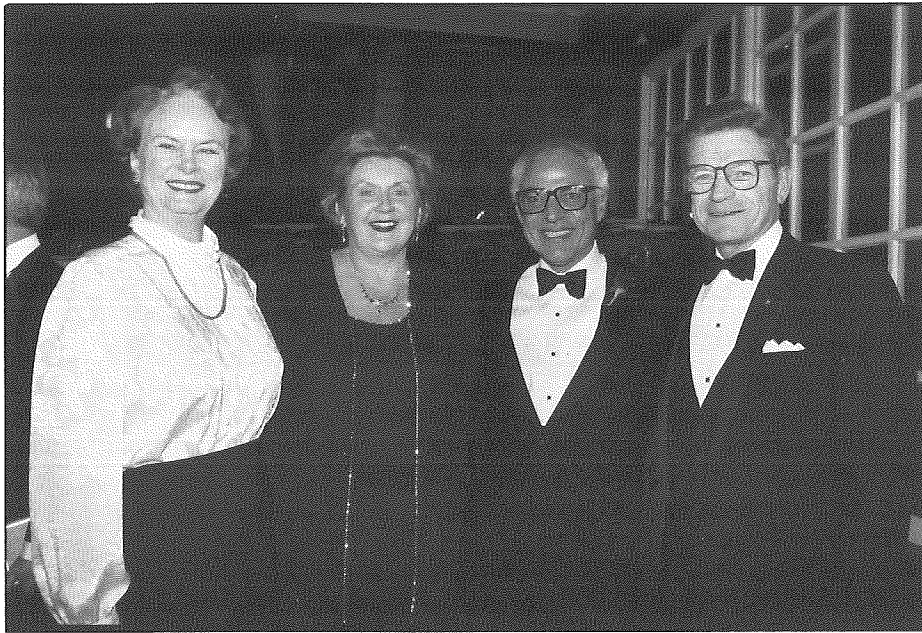
came from a nearby hunter, but certainly added dramatic emphasis, and the Baghdadis who were traveling with us appeared greatly relieved when we finally got back on the main highway. The dig house at Salabikh had long since been looted and the contents of bags of pottery stored there for study dumped out and scattered.

When we tried to visit our own site, Tell Abu Dawari, we were confronted with another example of how low on the list of priorities archaeology has slipped. One of the joys of working at this site had been its remoteness. It lay in the desert seventy-five miles southeast of Baghdad, eight miles from the nearest road and a good deal farther from the nearest human habitation. In the spring of 1990, a contingent of the Iraqi army sought to take advantage of this isolation to use the area for infantry train-

ing. We went to Baghdad, got a letter from Dr. Mu'ayad warning them they were endangering an archaeological site, and the commander immediately apologized and withdrew.

This year, when we left the main road and headed toward the site, we found massive canal cuts and new irrigation works all over the area, and miles and miles of plowed fields where there had once been sherd scatters marking small sites. We were eventually blocked well short of Tell Abu Duwari by these agricultural works, and still do not know whether or not this Old Babylonian site has been plowed under. One can hardly blame the Ministry of Agriculture for trying to stave off mass starvation by making the desert bloom, but projects this size before the war would have been preceded by archaeological surveys and international rescue efforts

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Patricia and Farouk El-Baz (center) are joined by Kathryn Silber and Boston University's President, John Silber, who was Honorary Chairman of the award ceremonies. Photograph courtesy of Boston University Photo Services.

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side the golden door." El-Baz is the nineteenth recipient of the Golden Door Award; previous recipients include Arthur Fiedler, I. M. Pei, Bernard Lown, Yo-Yo Ma, Arthur Loeb, An Wang, and Stephen P. Mugar.

Dr. El-Baz, Director of Boston University's Center for Remote Sensing, was honored by colleagues, past and present, for his devotion to science and humanity.

Colonel Stuart A. Roosa, (ret.), former Apollo 14 Command Module pilot, and colleague of El-Baz's during his tenure at the Apollo space program, said it would be "mission impossible" to recount all of El-Baz's achievements. "When you look out at a full moon...you should know that...there are six American flags that have been placed on the moon by astronauts trained by Farouk El-Baz."

Dr. Joseph P. Allen, Executive Vice President, Space Industries, Inc., and former Apollo Mission scientist and shuttle astronaut, called El-Baz "one of the world's best teachers." His enthusiasm for planetary geology convinced astronauts to collect lunar dust and rock samples for scientific evaluation. "Many of us are now amateur geologists," continued Allen.

Donald S. Lopez, Deputy Director, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, acknowledged El-Baz's contributions to the science aspect of the space exploration and in expanding the scientific exhibits at the museum. In 1973 El-Baz founded, and for eight years directed, the Center for Earth and Planetary Studies at the National Air and Space Museum.

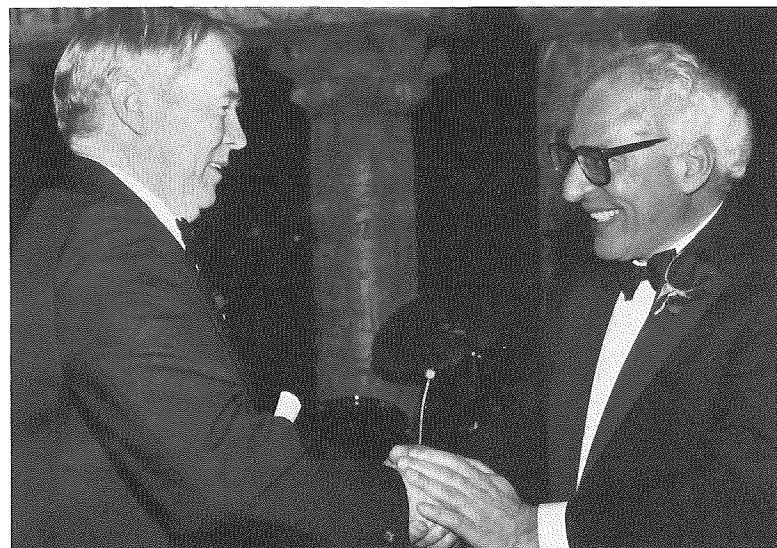
Colleagues praised the intelligence and futuristic vision El-Baz brings to the scientific community. Throughout his career he has endeavored to

convey to others the excitement of scientific research and the importance of sensitivity to the environment.

Ronald Ondrejka, a colleague of El-Baz's when he was vice president for science and technology at Itek Optical Systems, Lexington, Massachusetts, acknowledged that "Farouk pioneered the application and technology of using remote sensing...from space." El-Baz's vision not only "helps us understand the culture and natural resources of our planet today...but also helps us plan for tomorrow to save...earth's resources."

Applying the technology of space photography to the understanding of deserts and development of drylands, El-Baz was the first to dispel a common misconception that the deserts are man-made; rather, they evolve by natural processes in response to climatic variations. This same technology was used to assess environmental damages caused by the burning oil wells in the aftermath of the Gulf War.

Governor Weld and his wife were among the 385 invited guests. Dr. Susan Weld read a speech prepared by her sister, Dr. Anna Roosevelt, pointing out that remote sensing technology has revolutionized the way we are able to "see the world in non-destructive ways." Roosevelt explained that archaeologists are able to apply the technology to "see" ancient subsurface chambers without disturbing them, as doctors utilize remote sensing techniques to



Stuart A. Roosa (left) extends a congratulatory handshake to Farouk, his former Apollo Space Project colleague. Photograph courtesy of Boston University Photo Services.

examine the human brain without a scalpel. Roosevelt, a Research Associate of the Center for Remote Sensing and a MacArthur Foundation Fellow, was recently named Curator of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

Dr. John Silber, President of Boston University, acknowledged the substantial contribution El-Baz and other foreigners have made to America and mankind. "The country has continually been refreshed and strengthened by the presence of immigrants here ... we are very proud at Boston University to call him one of our own."

In accepting the award, El-Baz thanked his colleagues and family for their support.

In honor of her husband, Patricia El-Baz, an interior designer, coordinated the displays of Egyptian decorations at the landmark Boston restaurant which captured the mystery of the Nile with colorful fabrics and falcon sculptures (Farouk, in English, means "the falcon"). An ethnic Arabic dancer captivated the black-tie, sequined audience when she encircled Farouk with her gauze scarf and charmed him onto the dance floor.

El-Baz's warmth, charisma, and global concern for humanity have contributed to his international recognition. Born January 1, 1938, in the Nile delta town of Zagazig, Egypt, El-Baz served as science adviser to the late President Anwar Sadat and has received numerous awards and honors including NASA's Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement and the Arab Republic of Egypt Order of Merit—First Class.

As Director of the Center for Remote Sensing, El-Baz continues to promote the multidisciplinary applications of remote sensing technology in archaeological research and in other areas, including uncovering the mysteries of the past in the world's deserts, locating water resources in arid terrains, and studying present-day environmental concerns such as global warming.

Evelyn LaBree is currently working on a Master of Science degree in Journalism at Boston University, and is Administrator of the Department of Archaeology.

The Petra Preservation Project Workshop

by Ricardo J. Elia

In July 1991, the author participated in the Second Workshop of the Petra Preservation Project.

The Workshop, sponsored in 1991 by the Jordanian Higher Council for Science and Technology and Yarmouk University, brought together scientists and planners to discuss ways of preserving one of the world's most spectacular sites—Petra, the ancient capital of the Nabataeans.

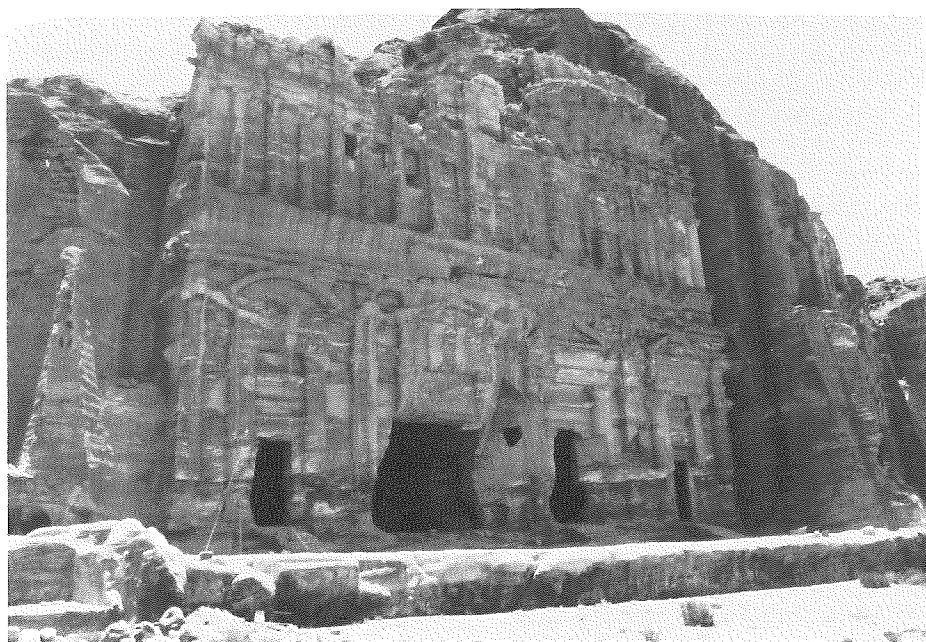
Petra is located in the mountains of the Rift Valley between the port town of Aqaba and the Dead Sea. Located at a key point on the ancient trade routes between Egypt and Mesopotamia, Petra was occupied by the Nabataeans as early as the 4th century B.C. In 106 A.C. Petra and the Nabataean kingdom were annexed by the Romans and incorporated into the Province of Arabia. Sometime in the sixth or seventh centuries A.C., Petra was abandoned and eventually forgotten until being rediscovered (as far as the West is concerned) by John Burckhardt in 1812.

Petra is famous for its remarkable rock-cut monuments—hundreds of

tombs, ritual dining areas, and shrines carved out of the sandstone cliffs that surround the ancient city. These rock-cut structures range from simple façades to elaborate and ornate monuments whose carvers were fully versed in the architectural styles and forms that were current in the Roman world in cities like Alexandria and Rome itself. One of the most important monuments is the Khaznat al-Faroun ("Pharaoh's Treasury"), which occupies a dramatic spot at the end of a narrow ravine that formed the entrance to the ancient city (see photo, page 1). This building, carved out of the sandstone cliff sometime in the first or second century B.C., will be recognizable to many from the film *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

What makes the monuments of Petra so fascinating is that most were carved out of the living rock rather than built up by masonry blocks like most ancient structures; technique is essentially sculptural rather than architectural. Ironically, this special feature of Petra has resulted in a massive conservation problem.

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Façade of the Palace Tomb at Petra. One of the most impressive of the rock-cut monuments at the site, the Palace Tomb is suffering from erosion and weathering and is in danger of collapse.

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The façades at Petras are subjected to all the problems of weathering and erosion that affect the façades of masonry buildings. But the monuments at Petra, which were hewn out of a soft sandstone, are also suffering from forces that originate within the mountains themselves.

Many of the monuments, for example, exhibit cracks and faults that hasten the forces of erosion by carrying water and corrosive salts into the fragile façades and chambers. These faults are generally not restricted to the monuments alone, but are part of larger fault lines that run throughout the mountains themselves. Solving this problem will not be easy; in a sense, we are attempting to conserve not just a group of monuments, but a mountain.

The Second Workshop of the Petra Preservation Project included experts in geology, archaeology, conservation, architecture, hydrology, chemistry, and preservation planning. The meeting was intended to follow up on the recommendations of the first workshop, which was held in 1988, and to continue to develop a conservation and management plan for the site. Dr. Farouk El-Baz, director of Boston University's Center for Remote Sensing, attended the 1988 workshop and, upon his return to Boston, held discussions with Professor James Wiseman, Chairman of the Archaeology Department, about possible work at Petra. My participation in the 1991 Workshop reflects the Department's continued interest in Petra.

At the second Workshop in July we learned that many positive steps have been taken since the first workshop. An organization called the Petra National Trust was established to promote the preservation of the site, and Petra was listed as a World Heritage Site (an inventory of the world's most important natural and cultural sites). We also heard the results of several ongoing scientific investigations at Petra. Dr. Berndt Fitzner of Aachen Technical University described his project of creating a typology of weathering forms, based on his geological analyses of many of the monuments. This typology, it is hoped, will

A Celebration of Archaeology

Department of Archaeology Marks Tenth Anniversary with Special Programs in 1992-93

The Department of Archaeology at Boston University, which will be ten years old at the close of this spring semester, will mark the first decade of its academic programs with a series of special programs throughout the coming academic year.

The series will open with "A Celebration of Archaeology," which will include major addresses by several distinguished visiting archaeologists, during the weekend of October 30-November 1, 1992. The highlight of the spring will be the Context and Human Society Lectures by George Bass, George T. & Gladys H. Abell Professor of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A. & M. University.

Professor Bass, whose pioneering work and dramatic discoveries in underwater archaeology have earned him international acclaim, will give three lectures and participate in a panel discussion during his week-long visit to Boston University beginning March 15, 1993. Bass has received numerous honors and awards, including the Gold Medal for Distinguished Archaeological Achievement from the Archaeological Institute of America.

The full program of speakers and events at "A Celebration of Archaeology" will be announced early in the fall. Both "A Celebration of Archaeology" and the Context and Human Society Lectures are made possible by a grant from the Humanities Foundation of the College of Liberal Arts of Boston University.

serve as a useful tool in setting priorities for conservation and for identifying appropriate conservation methods for specific monuments. Dr. Talal Akasheh of the Jordanian Higher Council of Science and Technology and Yarmouk University described his recent experiments on the chemical properties of the sandstones found at Petra. Dr. Sameer Hijazeen of the Jordanian Water Authority explained the hydrology of the Petra region. And Mr. Bassam Sina' and his colleagues from the Jordanian National Resources Authority presented the results of their recent geological mapping project.

The workshop ended with a day-long session devoted to a discussion of short-term and long-term needs of the site. It was agreed by all that one monument, the Palace Tomb, was in critical need of study and repair. This monument, one of the most impressive in Petra, is suffering from severe erosion and, in several places, appears to be in danger of collapse. Unlike most of Petra's rock-cut façades, the uppermost portion of the Palace Tomb was constructed of free-stand-

ing masonry; some of these blocks have already fallen off and more are likely to do so without intervention.

One of the most important aspects of the final discussion was the agreement that a well-articulated management plan needs to be developed for Petra to guide the study, conservation, and management of the site. It was agreed that there should be a centralized authority to oversee and manage the administration of the site, including archaeological research, monument conservation, and tourism. It was also agreed that conservation should be a priority at the site. Petra is one of those vast archaeological sites that could be investigated by archaeologists for a hundred years; but what is needed most at Petra is conservation and site management, not excavation.

Faculty members from the University's Archaeology Department and Center for Remote Sensing are currently developing plans to assist the Petra Preservation Project. We hope that we will be able to contribute to the preservation of the famous and important "rose-red city" of Petra.

Congratulations to the 1992 graduates!

Bachelor of Arts: Matthew R. Bobo, *Cum Laude*; Stefan H. Claesson, *Cum Laude*; Gwen S. Cohen; Stephanie K. Donchatz, *Cum Laude*; John J. Falzone, *Magna Cum Laude*; Rose A. MacNeil; Ingrid Martonova, *Magna Cum Laude*; Larissa R. Miller; Belinda H. Monahan, *Cum Laude*; Charlene Quirt, *Cum Laude*; Sonja R. Samsouondar; Jennifer G. Schnell; Robert A. St Laurent, *Cum Laude*; K. Laurie Victor, *Cum Laude*; John A. Walkey, *Cum Laude*; Paula J. Yarbrough.

All graduating seniors will receive a complimentary one-year membership in the Center for Archaeological Studies.

Doctor of Philosophy: Paula Kay Lazrus. The Department of Archaeology has awarded Paula a one-year membership in the Archaeological Institute of America.

The Department of Archaeology graduation ceremonies and reception will be held on Sunday, May 17, at 2:00 p.m., in the Stone Science Library on the 4th floor (Suite 440) of the Stone Science Building, 675 Commonwealth Avenue.

And to those receiving awards!

Jane Jalutkewicz, an Archaeology/Anthropology junior received the Melville Scholarship for the 1992-93 academic year.

Ann-Eliza Lewis has been awarded the Archaeology Teaching Fellow prize by the College of Liberal Arts for excellence in teaching.

Ingrid Martonova has been awarded the College Prize for Excellence, and the Archaeology Award for Distinction was awarded to **K. Laurie Victor**, which includes a subscription to the *Journal of Field Archaeology*.

The Archaeological Institute of America has awarded its Anna C. and Oliver C. Colburn Fellowship in the amount of \$5,500 to **Thomas E. Tartaron**, a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Archaeology, to attend the American School of Classical Studies in Athens for the academic year 1992-93.

The Humanities Foundation at Boston University has awarded scholarships to two Department of Archaeology graduate students and one undergraduate for the academic year 1992-93. **Thomas F. Tartaron** received the Edwin S. and Ruth M. White Prize Scholarship (\$1,500) and **Carol A. Stein** received the Alice M. Brennan Scholarship (\$1,300); both are doctoral candidates and will be Associate Members of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens during the coming academic year. **Vicki Kobza** a candidate for the Bachelor of Arts degree received the Clarimond Mansfield Memorial Scholarship (\$600).

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to excavate the most important sites. The Department of Antiquities knew nothing of any of this, and there are doubtless other areas in which canal cutting and bulldozing have disrupted archaeological sites in the southern plains.

If conditions continue to deteriorate and the desperation of the ordinary people of Iraq increases further, we can expect the toll on Mesopotamian antiquities to keep pace with their suffering. Nobody is

going to have much sympathy with well-fed foreigners who turn up and tell them to honor their past.

Paul Zimansky is Associate Professor of Archaeology at Boston University and is Editor of Mar Shipri a newsletter on Mesopotamian archaeology published by the American Schools of Oriental Research. Elizabeth C. Stone is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and is a Research Fellow of the Center for Archaeological Studies at Boston University.

Massachusetts Archaeology Week

The Massachusetts Historical Commission has designated the week of June 6-14 as Archaeology Week, and several events are planned by the Office of Public Archaeology at Boston University.

Lectures, Exhibits, Tours

Dr. Mary C. Beaudry, Associate Professor of Archaeology, will give a lecture entitled "Historical Archaeology and the Lives of Women" on June 8, 7:00 p.m., at 775 Commonwealth Avenue, Terrace Lounge Room, George Sherman Union Building. Reception immediately following.

Al B. Wesolowsky, Managing Editor, *Journal of Field Archaeology* will give a lecture entitled "Paupers' Bones: Excavation and Analysis at the Uxbridge Almshouse Cemetery, Massachusetts" on June 10, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., 675 Commonwealth Avenue, Stone Science Building, Room B50 (basement).

An exhibit will be open for the month of June at the George Sherman Union Building, 775 Commonwealth Avenue, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Gallery. Displays on archaeology in Massachusetts, both prehistoric and historical, from projects completed by the Office of Public Archaeology, the Department of Archaeology, and the Center for Remote Sensing at Boston University will be exhibited.

Lab tours of the research facilities at Boston University will be held on Wednesday, June 10, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Location: 675 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Stone Science Building Room 250.

The public is welcome and the lectures are free.

For more information, contact: Ellen Berkland or Sara Mascia Office of Public Archaeology Boston University 675 Commonwealth Avenue Boston, Massachusetts 02215 (617) 353-3416

Excavations at Halfiah Gibli and Semaineh, Upper Egypt

by Kathryn A. Bard

The renowned archaeologist Sir Flinders Petrie, working in the Hu-Semaineh region of Upper Egypt in 1898–1899, excavated a Roman fort and a number of cemeteries, some of Predynastic date (about 4,000–3,000 B.C.). Ninety years later, Dr. Kathryn A. Bard conducted a survey in the vicinity of Petrie's Predynastic cemeteries in search of contemporary settlements, and located two: Halfiah Gibli, (site HG), and at Semaineh (site SH). Excavations at those sites in 1991 resulted in evidence from one of them (HG) for a widespread exchange network, which correlates with evidence from Petrie's Cemetery B.

Introduction

Continuing research into the Predynastic period has resulted in the discovery of significant new evidence for long-distance trade in the Hu-Semaineh region of Upper Egypt. The research, conducted during July and August 1991, included excavation at sites HG and SH, which had been located during a survey in 1989 near Predynastic cemeteries found nearly a

century ago by Sir Flinders Petrie, as reported in *Context* 8:1-2 (1989) 10–12.

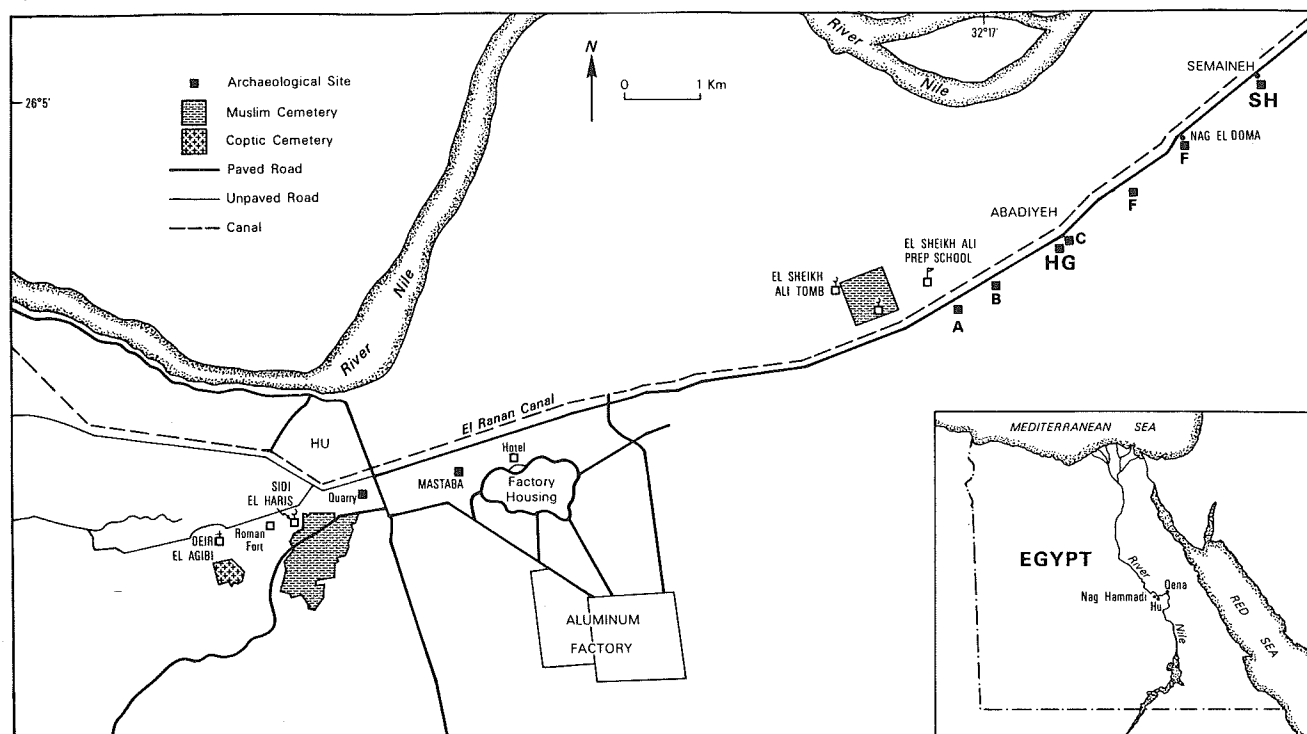
Site SH had been thought to be a late Predynastic settlement because of the types of grave goods excavated there by Petrie. What is more, a calibrated radiocarbon date of about 3780–3530 B.C. (OxA-2184) was obtained on a charcoal sample from a test pit excavated at SH in 1989. Excavations at SH in 1991, however, revealed that the site was deflated, and no evidence of domestic structures was found. Although large chunks of vitrified clay had been found on the surface, so that a pottery kiln seemed indicated, no trace of a kiln structure was found in the excavations. The ceramics from the excavated unit consisted mostly of sherds of very gritty-tempered Old Kingdom bread molds, and SH had probably been a kiln site for the production of these molds. No other domestic pottery was found, and a few Meydum bowl sherds (Old Kingdom) that were excavated there probably came from an Old Kingdom *mastaba* at the north end of the site where fragments of

mud-brick are still visible. A calibrated radiocarbon date of about 2860–2460 B.C. (OxA-2185) obtained from a charcoal sample from that feature places it firmly in the Old Kingdom.

Although the great mixture of ceramics from the site did include a few Predynastic (as well as New Kingdom) sherds, most of the ceramics dated to the Old Kingdom. As a result, we discontinued excavations there.

Site HG: General Observations

The main focus of excavations during the 1991 fieldwork was at Site HG. A topographic map of the site was made, and nine units were excavated. No evidence of any kind of residential structures was found, either in areas previously or not previously cultivated; it is presumed that cultivation in the 1950s and 1960s destroyed any such features on the main spur of the ridge on which the site was located. A 2 x 2 m test unit (6) was excavated in the previously cultivated area and very few sherds and stone tools (but some charcoal) were found above the paleosol, indicating much disturbance. When Petrie visited this site in 1898 he stated that it was "entirely



Location map of Hu-Semaineh Predynastic sites.

plundered," and if there had been any remains of mud-brick walls, Petrie would probably have noted them. The settlement here, we believe, was probably constructed of ephemeral (organic) materials, which could only be recognized by more recent archaeological methods of recovery, and such features were most likely destroyed by the recent cultivation.

HG, Unit 1

Excavations at HG, then, were undertaken mainly in areas that had not been previously cultivated: to the north and east margins of the main spur, and on a small spur to the east of the main village site. Unit 1 was excavated in a low-lying depression to the southeast of the main spur, in the area of the four limestone blocks noted in the 1989 survey. In this area cultural material, consisting of sherds, stone tools, and much charcoal, had washed down from the main settlement.

Ceramics consisted of an assemblage expected of a Predynastic settlement: large quantities of chaff-tempered ware (Rough-ware) intermixed with smaller quantities of polished red, black, and Bichrome wares. The Rough-ware represents large and smaller storage jars, and cooking vessels and bowls, while the fine polished wares represent a better quality material, possibly for serving food. Sherds of Predynastic bread molds were also identified. Three unusual ceramic items were also found in Unit 1: a pot-stand, consisting of a pinched ring of clay, tapered at the top; a loop-handle of Nile mud-clay, imitating wares imported from Palestine; and a large, globular ceramic bead, unpolished, 3.2 cm long and 3.2 cm in diameter.

The stone tools from Unit 1 were typically those of an agricultural village: sickle blades (some with polish), some bifacial tools, flakes, and fragments of grinding stones. No projectile points or other hunting/fishing tools were excavated, and there were relatively few scrapers. Numerous grinders and grinding-stone fragments were also found on the surface of HG.

Palaeobotanical evidence from Unit 1 also confirmed the agricultural subsistence base. Evidence was found for the major Predynastic (and dynastic) cereal crops, emmer wheat, and barley.

Beneath the levels with Predynastic artifacts in Unit 1, a semicircular hearth was excavated with no associated sherds or stone tools. A fragment of a mandible (tentatively identified as a small herbivore, such as a gazelle) was found between two hearth stones. This hearth is thus earlier than the levels with Predynastic sherds, and may be Epi-palaeolithic.

HG, Unit 3

On the northeast side of the main spur at HG, two 2 x 2 m test units (2 and 3) were excavated, both with few cultural remains. Excavations continued in Unit 3 when the remains of durum wheat (*Triticum durum*) were recovered there through flotation, along with the remains of emmer wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) and 6-row barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). Further evidence of durum wheat was subsequently recovered from this unit. It is worth noting, incidentally, that although the deposits of Unit 3 contained charred plant remains, there were very few artifacts. This circumstance suggests that ash deposits had been swept out of hearths in houses and dumped on the edge of the village.

The discovery of durum wheat was particularly exciting because durum wheat has not been reported from Upper Egyptian Predynastic sites before, and it is only questionably known for this period from the site of Merimda in Lower Egypt. Although emmer wheat and barley have been found in dynastic contexts, such as in baskets in Tutankh-amen's tomb, no durum wheat is known from a dynastic context. Indeed, other than these two sites, the cultivation of durum wheat is not known in Egypt until Graeco-Roman times—over 3000 years later.

Durum wheat probably came to Egypt in the 5th millennium B.C., at the same time as the other cereals in the Near Eastern complex (emmer

wheat and barley). The Predynastic was a period when cereals that had been domesticated in southwest Asia were first cultivated within the flood-plain ecology of the Nile Valley. Farming in the Nile Valley in the early 4th millennium B.C. was thus an experiment in a new environment. Some crops, such as emmer wheat and barley, were very successfully grown there, and it was the cultivation of these crops that formed the economic base of the later pharaonic state.

HG, Units 5 and 7

To the east of the spur on which the main Predynastic settlement at HG is located is a smaller spur separated by a small wadi in which the washed material of Unit 1 was excavated. Excavations were conducted in this area in two units (5 and 7), throughout which were numerous pits with much wood, charcoal, and ash. Burned and fire-cracked rocks and cobbles were also found, as well as a number of heat-treated flakes and tools of flint. The abundant lithic debris from all stages of manufacture indicate that this area was probably devoted to stone tool production.

Other evidence from Units 5 and 7 also suggests stone working. A carnelian bead was discovered through flotation from Unit 5; an unfinished agate bead was recovered from Unit 7; and an unworked green stone, identified as green felspar, was found in Unit 5. Green felspar was used for beads beginning in Predynastic times, as were agate and carnelian. Also in Unit 7 was a small ground-stone palette of hard sandstone, slightly trapezoidal in shape with rounded corners. An end fragment of a large rhomboid slate palette was also excavated in Unit 7, as was a polishing stone.

Evidence for Trade and Exchange

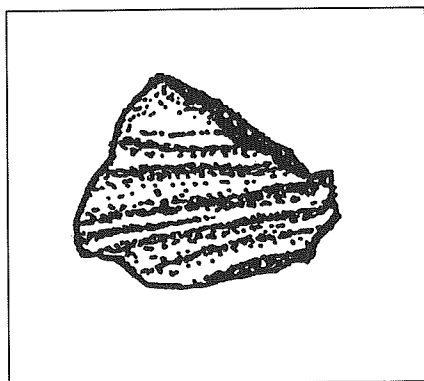
A preliminary analysis of the materials found at HG suggests a widespread exchange network in which even this relatively small farming

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village was engaged. Agate is found locally in wadi deposits, but the green feldspar and carnelian come from the Eastern Desert. Two small lumps of copper were recovered from Units 1 and 3, and the nearest copper mines are also in the Eastern Desert near the Red Sea coast. A (pierced?) cowrie shell from the Red Sea was also found in Unit 7. Grinding stones collected on the surface of HG consisted of igneous rocks and metamorphic rocks from the Eastern Desert and from Aswan.

Complex economic interaction is also suggested by another artifact excavated in Unit 1 at HG: a fragment of a mud-sealing. The sealing was created when a mud lump was impressed over three loops of string that had been tied around a jar (or other kind of container). The existence of such a sealing suggests the exchange of valued goods in a regional or long-distance, and not local,



A fragment of a mud-sealing impressed on string that had been tied around a jar or other kind of container, from site HG. Maximum preserved dimension 2.1 centimeters.

exchange network. Such economic evidence from the settlement at HG also correlates with grave goods in sometimes exotic materials, such as lapis lazuli and gold, excavated by Petrie from the nearby Cemetery B.

Acknowledgments

Members of the staff in 1991 were: Dr. Abdel-Moneim Mahmoud of Ain Shams University, Cairo; Dr. Arlene Miller, Been Sheva, Israel; Holly Raab-Rust and James Raab-Rust, graduate

Family, Farm, Field, and Garden

Archaeology Workshop: Historical Households and Landscapes

The Center for Archaeological Studies offers archaeological workshops at the Spencer-Pierce-Little property in Newbury, Massachusetts. The Spencer-Pierce-Little house is a late first-period (about 1700) brick and stone house with cruciform plan—the only one of its kind in New England. The site is owned by the Society

for the Preservation of New England

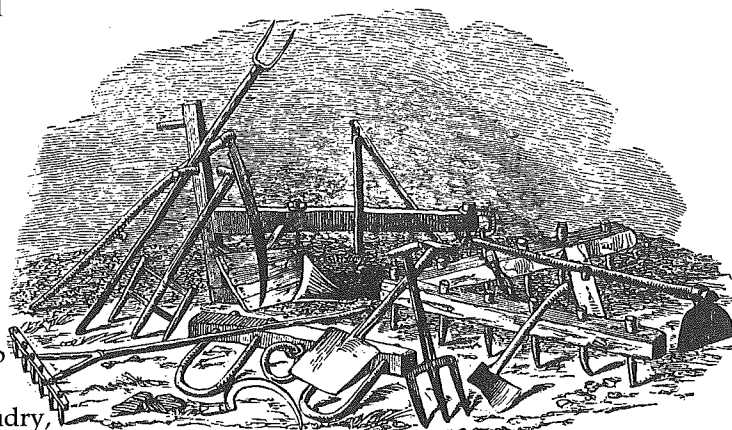
Antiquities, which also owns the 232 acres that remain of the original Spencer-Pierce farm.

The Director of the workshop will be Dr. Mary C. Beaudry, an Associate Professor in the Department of Archaeology at Boston University, and Sara F. Mascia, a doctoral candidate in the Department, will be the Assistant Director.

There will be one- and two-week workshops conducted June 22–July 31, 1992. Workshop participants will receive instruction in techniques involved in routine survey and excavation and may attend lectures on field conservation, zooarchaeology, stone tool technology, environmental archaeology, and local history. Laboratory instruction will include the basics: washing, labeling, and sorting artifacts; identifying historical artifacts; cataloguing; preliminary analysis. The 1992 field season will include intensive excavations in the house/lot/farmyard immediately surrounding the Spencer-Pierce-Little house. Survey efforts will be aimed at locating additional sites, in particular the remains of the structure that was John Spencer's home before the present house was built about 1690, and delineating early field patterns.

The field work will take place 5 days a week. The normal daily schedule will be 8:30–4:45 with 30 minutes for lunch and a 10-minute break in morning and afternoon. Workshop participants must arrange for their own transportation to and from the site.

For further information, contact: Dr. Mary C. Beaudry, Department of Archaeology, Boston University, 675 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02215, (617) 353-3415.



students at Boston University; Stephen Savage, Arizona State University; Dr. Sally Swain, Norwich, England; Dr. Wilma Wetterstrom of Harvard University; and Dr. Eberhard Zangger, Zurich,

Switzerland. Funding for the project was provided by the National Geographic Society.

Kathryn A. Bard is Assistant Professor in the Department of Archaeology at Boston University.

Archaeology in the Caribbean

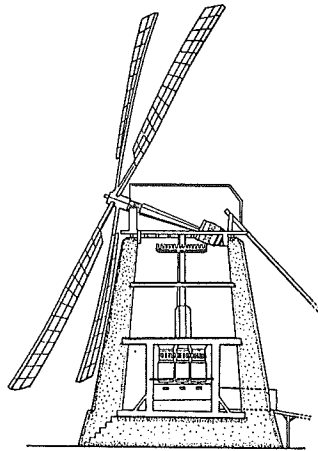
Heritage Education/Archaeology Workshops at Estate Whim Plantation, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

The Center for Archaeological Studies at Boston University will conduct excavation workshops for volunteers in conjunction with the Estate Whim Heritage Education Workshops. The workshops will be in January and February 1993. Participants may choose two-, three-, or four-week sessions. Costs and exact dates will be announced at a later date.

The Estate Whim Project is primarily an archaeological exploration that incorporates research in geography, geology, history, and other disciplines in the study of St. Croix's eighteenth- and nineteenth-century sugar industry. Estate Whim Plantation Museum, which is owned and managed by the St. Croix Landmarks Society, today contains the restored Great House, bake house, and servants' quarters, as well as the ruins of the sugar factory. The main goals of the archaeological excavations are to aid the Landmarks Society in the restoration and reinterpretation of the numerous buildings at Estate Whim and to learn about the lifeways of those who lived and worked on the plantation.

The Archaeology Workshops will introduce participants to various aspects of archaeological research through hands-on experience. Volunteers will learn methods of excavation, surveying and mapping, artifact identification, and documentary research. The Archaeology Workshops will be held in conjunction with the project's Heritage Education Workshops in which students from St. Croix schools will participate to learn more about their island's cultural heritage.

For more information, write to:
Donald G. Jones
Estate Whim Project
Office of Public Archaeology
Boston University
675 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215.
(617) 353-3416



Student/AlumNews

The State University of New York, Stony Brook, has appointed **John Shea** (B.A. 1982) an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology, effective September 1, 1992. John completed his Ph.D. at Harvard University in June 1991.

Nancy J. Brighton (B.A. 1989) is enrolled in the M.A. program in the Department of Anthropology at New York University, and has been participating in their excavations at 153 W. 12 Street in New York.

Joseph J. Basile (B.A. 1987), graduate student at the Center for Old World Art and Archaeology, Brown University, holds a Joukowsky Dissertation Fellowship for 1991-92 to work on his dissertation concerning monumental warrior statuary in the Iron Age western Mediterranean.

Melissa Moore, graduate student in the Department of Archaeology, will join the research staff of the Nikopolis Project during the summer of 1992, primarily dealing with ceramic material.

Carol A. Stein and **Thomas F. Tartaron** will be Teaching Assistants in the Department of Archaeology Field School in Greece during June-July, 1992. The Field School will be integrated into the research activities of the Nikopolis Project, a multidisciplinary archaeological project in the region of Epirus, Greece. They are both members of the Nikopolis Project research staff.

Faculty News

The National Geographic Society has awarded **Julie Hansen**, Assistant Professor of Archaeology, a grant of \$14,000 for an archaeological sampling project in Thessaly. Carbonized plant remains will be collected from twenty prehistoric sites (Neolithic-Bronze Age) through augering or exposed sections. After identification, these remains will be submitted for C-14 dating. Professor Hansen has also received a grant from the Institute of Aegean Prehistory in the amount of \$10,000 for the same project. Both grants have been

awarded for work to begin in the summer of 1993.

Michael DiBlasi, Research Fellow in the Center for Archaeological Studies, recently returned from Nigeria where he spent eight weeks consulting with the National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) on the development of research and training programs in archaeology. During his stay in Nigeria, DiBlasi participated in several seminars at the NCMM's post-graduate School of Field Archaeology and gave a public lecture on "Archaeology in the United States" at the Center for Museum Studies in Jos.

The Center for Archaeological Studies at Boston University and the NCMM are currently working on plans to establish an affiliation program that would link the two institutions in carrying out cooperative research, training, and cultural resource management activities in Nigeria.

Research Professor **J. Wilson Myers** and Research Fellow **Eleanor Emlen Myers** have received advance copies of *An Aerial Atlas of Ancient Crete*, which is the result of ten years of planning, field work, and editing. The book, which they co-edited with Gerald Cadogan, is co-published by

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Short Fiction

A Bad Choice

by Al B. Wesolowsky

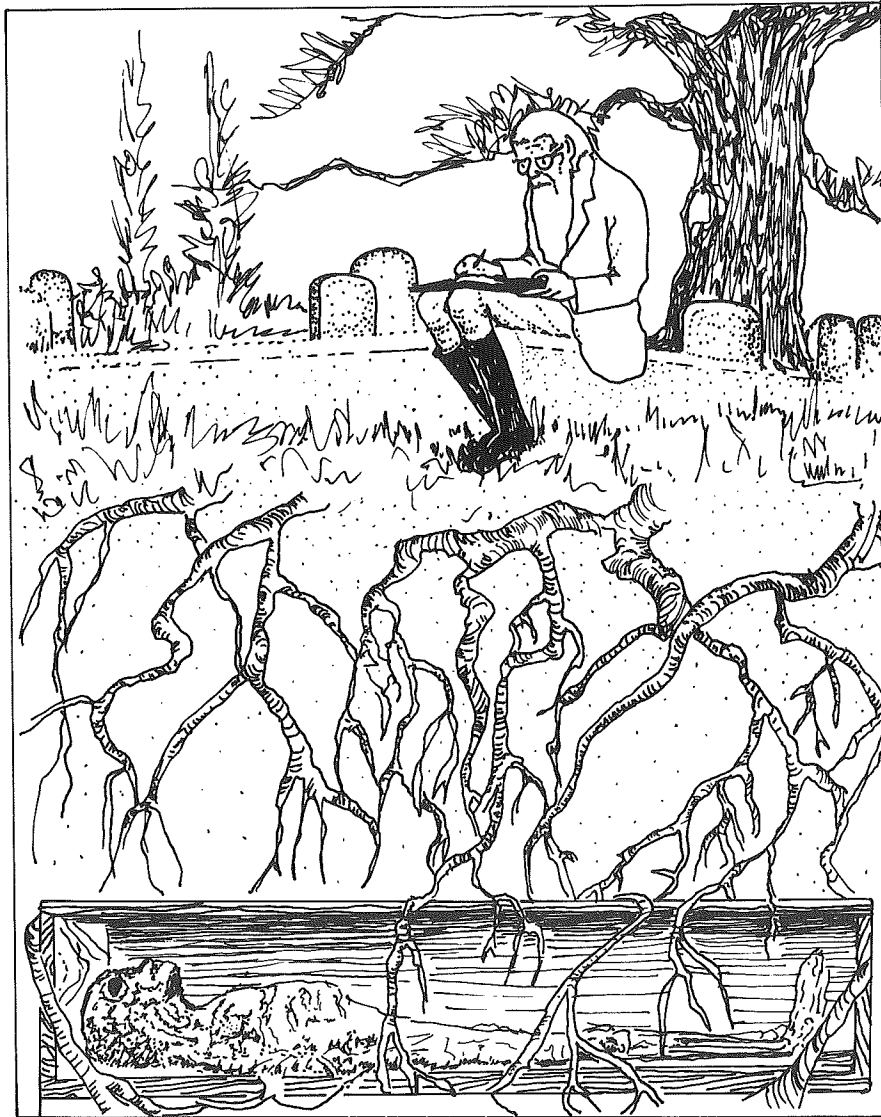
Archaeologists are, of course, concerned with scientific excavation and protection of archaeological resources. Looting of sites, for whatever purpose, is unethical, increasingly illegal, and possibly dangerous.

For centuries the vault had been silent, filled with darkness unrelieved. The creak of brick masonry under stress corrupted the perfect stillness, and it was followed by the thin patter of ancient, crumbling mortar streaming to a pile on the floor. The stone of the doorjamb split. The creaking ceased as a hydraulic jack was withdrawn and older, more familiar tools—prybars and gouges—were forced into weathered seams of masonry. A single thin brick

was pushed from the sealed entrance into the interior. Through the narrow slit came not a comforting shaft of sunlight, chasing the disturbed shadows, but only an equal darkness cut by a thin pencil beam of light.

The beam wandered about the vault, striking shapes and walls that had not experienced the faintest glim-

mer of illumination for centuries. The beam was withdrawn, its bearer satisfied with the scene. The fallen brick was quickly joined by its neighbors amidst a steady cascade of dust and mortar chips. Once the opening was enlarged, bricks on the edge of the hole were withdrawn to the outside. The scrape of steel on masonry was joined by the small clinks of bricks being stacked outside the vault.



Making the choice! Drawing by Priscilla Murray taken from the dust jacket of A. Boddington, A.N. Garland, and R. C. Janaway (eds.) Death, Decay and Reconstruction, Manchester University Press (1987).

As the opening grew larger, a feeble light drifted into the vault, not from stars but from the ashen glow of distant street lamps in the darkened, sleeping city neighborhood.

Again the thin beam came from the entrance, quickly joined by a second.

The lights danced about the vault as if to confirm that all remained still and quiet. A muffled grunt, and the sound of clothing scraping across brick heralded a figure wriggling in through the broken wall and rising to stand within the vault.

"What can you see? Can you find it?"

"Gah, but this place is as dark as midnight in Persia. Hand me the

light."

"Here. D'you want me to come in?"

"Might as well. Let him keep watch. This vault is bigger than he told us."

"Yeah. Lookit, this room goes on back into the hill."

"And there's another branch off this way."

"Where do we start?"

"At the back. He said the oldest ones would be nearer the back. You got that name he gave us?"

"Yeah, on the paper here."

"Don't lose it. Put it in your pocket somewhere."

"Right. We leave no evidence, eh?"

"Always the comic."

"I thought they'd be in niches or something, but lookit all the junk. Sawhorses, planks, boxes. And the wood's all falling apart."

"What'd you expect?"

He said it had been centuries."

"This ain't gonna be no quick job, I can tell you that. We'll be hours sorting

out this lot. So, where are the name plates? He said there'd be name plates."

"Here's one. Gah, the dust is all furry like, but it comes away. Says 'Constan... something,' but it's too corroded to read."

"Here's another, all curlicues. Looks like a wedding invite."

"Some wedding. Let me see... 'Eliphaz...' Can't make out the date."

"Lookit, let's get him in here to help. We'll not find the thing in a month."

"Yeah. Hey, mister! Come on in. We're needing some help."

"What's that? Have you found it already?"

"We wish. We can't find our noses in here; it's a right mare's nest. Stuff all over the place."

"Well don't break anything, whatever you do. I'm coming in."

"Here, you can stand now. See what we mean?"

"Yes, I do. Much more cluttered than the plans I found. You found name plates? Let me see. Hmmm...not much help."

"The back must be this way, into the hill."

"Yes, that's where the old ones must be. Can you lead the way?"

"I'll try. Mind the wood here. Gah! It fell apart!"

"What did you do?"

"Barely touched it. Everything in here is crumbling. Let's not raise more dust if we can avoid it."

"Yeah, mister, when we took this job we had no idea...."

"Never mind him. Fancies himself a regular cat burglar, don't you?"

"No cat would be dumb enough to come in *here*. I know that for a fact."

"Back this way. There's a bit of a path."

"Lookit, that one has bones falling out of it. Creepy."

"What did you expect, Shreve, Crump, & Low? This ain't exactly the Back Bay, you know?"

"Enough, you two. These niches have name plates. Hard to read. 'Phyllis,' I think, and here's a date.

No, too late for what we want. Further back."

"You're the boss. Let's see...around this way, I guess."

"Why didn't they bury them in the ground, mister? Why this cellar thing?"

"Not a 'cellar,' a vault. These were an upper-class family. Vaults were fitting for them. Graves served for the lower orders."

"Lookit, what do you want with this thing, anyway? You some kind of collector?"

"You might say that. This is for our rituals."

"Yeah, well, lookit, here's a good one. All nice and clean. And the jaw-bone, too. What's wrong with this one?"

"We need a certain one. A powerful one. And one who was our foe, then, mocking our faith."

"Gah, let's keep religion our of this. A job's a job, right?"

"Religion? I suppose you could call it a 'religion.' But it is older than any religion you may know. It draws its strength from ancients, such as those here."

"Whatever. Here are some more niches—shelves, more like—this one I can read: 'Samuel 1706-1785.'"

"Ah, that's the son. We seek the father."

"How far back are we now?"

"Centuries, man, to a time that knew the Invisible World."

"What's invisible now is the doorway to this place."

"What? Oh, you mean the clutter back there. Never mind the door. Put your light on these niches, up here.

'Richard 1596-1669.' We've overshot. Back up."

"Here's 'Increase...obit 1723.'"

"Then *this* one must be him, here. Look, the wood is sound."

"Gah, it is, at that. Be a racket breaking it up."

"No, we can pull it out. Help me."

"Thing weighs a ton...here, got my end."

"Down gently. There! There!"

"Take it easy, mister, you'll wake the dead."

"This *is* him. Quickly, pry off the plate. I'll need it for proof."

"You're the boss, but calm down, will you?"

"Yeah, step aside, mister. Let us handle this."

"Hurry, though. We must hurry."

"What's to hurry? Our man here is going nowhere."

"You do not understand! He knows the Invisible World and he *will* resist, if he has time."

"I guess I don't understand, but here's your name plate. Put the bar

under that edge, will you? I got some space for mine on this side."

"Ow! These nails do make a screech, don't they. Wish we had a blanket to muffle this...ah! It's loose!"

"Lift the lid, man!"

"Lookit. He's all covered with a clean sheet. It's not decayed a bit."

"Cut the cloth. Here, let me. Pull it away...get back, you two!"

"Sure, mister.... Lookit his face!"

"Gah! It's not a skull at all! The eyes...!"

"*Ye dog! Ye dog! I'll have a frisk with ye!*"

* * *

"And that was when you and Slick Eddie here took off, eh?"

"Yeah, Detective. The man went crazy and began hollering and kicking. Terrible screaming."

"That's right. We couldn't see much, after he dropped his flashlight. It looked like he was fighting the guy in the coffin, I guess."

"Fighting a man who's been dead for 250 years?"

"Yeah. We took off, all right. So would you. Ran right through the vault and Slick here dived headfirst through the hole we'd busted in the wall."

"That how you got cut up, Slick?"

"Yeah. Lookit, we're burglars, right? How were we supposed to know this guy was a nut case? Getting so you can't tell anything about anyone these days."

"Tell me, Slick, do sane people go around stealing skulls?"

"Yeah, well. Lookit, Detective, we had nothing to do with the rest of it."

"You were just supposed to swipe a skull for some bunch of Satanists, right?"

"That's pretty much the way we had it figured."

"The Medical Examiner says here that your client's head was twisted clean off his body."

"Right. We saw it when we went back up there to Copp's Hill with the squad car."

"Yeah. The head was sitting in the middle of the hole we made in the wall."

"Eddie fainted when he saw it."

"Did not. I was looking for my

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Archaeology Library and Archives Enlarged by Gifts and Grants

The archaeological collection of the Stone Science Library at Boston University has been significantly augmented during this past year by two gifts and by the acquisition of a bibliographical database through a grant from the Humanities Foundation of Boston University's College of Liberal Arts.

Edmonson Papers

The professional papers, sketches, and notes of the late Colin N. Edmonson, an eminent Classicist, historian, and topographer of Greece, have been donated to the archaeology library by his widow, Mrs. Betty Edmonson of Tucson, Arizona.

Edmonson was Professor of Classics and Chairman of the Department of Classics at the University of Washington in Seattle, and later in his career taught at other institutions, including Hunter College, Pomona College, Whitman College, and the University of Arizona. He is perhaps best known as the Mellon Professor of Classical Studies at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece, a post he held from 1976 until 1982, where he shared his intense enthusiasm for Greece—ancient and

Modern—with students from all parts of America. He died in November 1988.

"Colin Edmonson was a superb teacher," commented James Wiseman, Chairman of the Department of Archaeology, who was a student in Athens while Edmonson was secretary of the School in 1959-60, "He had a profound knowledge of the historical landscape of Greece, and his papers will be an important resource for students of Greek history and civilization. We are fortunate that Betty Edmonson has made it possible for faculty and students to have access to them."

The papers, which include Edmonson's notes on his innumerable travels in the Greek countryside, are now being inventoried and will be preserved with the growing archaeological archives in the Stone Science Library.

Davis Collection

The holdings for local archaeology in Boston University's Stone Science Library received a significant expansion in April by a donation from Dr. E. Mott Davis of Austin, Texas. Dr. Davis, a native of Massachusetts and recently retired from many years of teaching and research in the Anthropology Department of the University of Texas at Austin, donated his personal collection of bulletins and newsletters of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society. The publications, going back to *Bulletin* Volume 2, Number 2 (January 1941), comprise a record of the intellectual and practical history of archaeology in Massachusetts.

"Mott," as he is known to countless professional and amateur archaeologists, participated in the Stobi Excavation Project in Yugoslavian Macedonia in the 1970s, when it was sponsored in part first by the

University of Texas at Austin and later by Boston University. Over the years he has kept himself informed on archaeological matters in his native state and we are proud that he has chosen Boston University to receive this particular part of his personal library.

DYABOLA Database

The first installment of DYABOLA, the online archaeology index of the German Archaeological Institute in Rome, has been acquired by the Stone Science Library, and is now available to users of the library, thanks to a grant from the CLA Humanities Foundation. DYABOLA, a bibliographical database, was developed by the Institute at Rome to cover its extensive holdings from 1956 to the present.

The principal subjects covered are Classical, Egyptian, and Oriental archaeology; Byzantine art; epigraphy; numismatics; ancient history, society, and law; prehistory; and philology. The database can be searched by subject, "key-word," author, title, series, periodicals, and any part of a title.

The grant from the Humanities Foundation made possible the acquisition not only of the program and the first installment of entries, which cover the years 1986 to 1990, but also a PC-compatible to run the program on, a laser printer to provide hard copy, and a subscription for future installments of the database.

David Sauer, Head Librarian, commented that "We are the first library in the area to acquire this important reference work. It is now up and running on its own computer, and we are planning to offer instructional sessions to introduce people to the program."

The grant from the Humanities Foundation was made in response to a proposal by Professors Fred Kleiner and James Wiseman, who emphasized that DYABOLA will be of great benefit not only to faculty and students in archaeology, art history, and classics, but to any scholar studying the ancient Mediterranean world and western Asia.

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keys. You were pretty green around the gills, though."

"Your guy wanted just the one skull, right? Out of all the ones that were in the vault?"

"You got it. Eddie wrote it down. You got the paper, Eddie?"

"Yeah, here it is. See. Odd name, huh, Detective?"

"'Cotton Mather 1663-1728.' A bad choice, Eddie. I'd say your Satanist client made a very bad choice, indeed."

"Yeah. How do you figure it, Detective?"

"For once, a grave looter picked on someone who knew how to fight back. About time, I'd say."

Al B. Wesolowsky is the Managing Editor for the Journal of Field Archaeology at Boston University. Some people are beginning to feel he has been working too long in cemeteries.

Archaeological Resource Management Conference in Egypt

Ricardo Elia, Director of Boston University's Office of Public Archaeology, will participate in a conference on archaeological resource management May 4-15, 1992, in Cairo, Egypt. The conference has been organized by the Department of Egyptology of the American University in Cairo.

The goals of the conference are to assist the American University in Cairo in the following areas: 1) establishment of training programs in archaeological resource management; 2) management of archaeological, historical, and tourist sites; 3) development of policies and procedures for site management. The American University in Cairo wishes to establish a diploma program in specialized aspects of archaeological resource management, and a degree program in archaeological resource management that will complement its existing programs in Egyptology and Islamic art and architecture.

The conference will be attended by representatives from the Archaeology, Engineering, and Management departments of the American University in Cairo; several Egyptologists and members of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization; and representatives from the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Office of Environmental Affairs. Dr. Elia and four other specialists from the United States will be attending as members of the International Executive Service Corps, an organization of volunteer specialists in business and management who work on specific assignments in more than 84 countries. Elia currently chairs the Archaeological Heritage Management Committee of US/ICOMOS, the U.S. chapter of the International Council on Monuments and Sites.



Profiles of the Past

Our Archaeological Heritage

by Ricardo Elia

The Need for Professional Training in Archaeological Heritage Management

One of the most important developments in American archaeology in the last twenty years has been the creation of a new professional field devoted to the identification, protection, and management of archaeological sites that are threatened by a variety of human and natural forces, such as development, erosion, and looting. This new field, known internationally as archaeological heritage management, is most frequently called cultural resource management (CRM) in the United States. Other names that are commonly used to refer to CRM include public archaeology, contract archaeology, and conservation archaeology.

Archaeological heritage management in the United States arose as a result of the passage of several important laws in the 1960s and 1970s that made historic preservation an element of national and public policy. These laws required federal agencies to consider the effect of any undertaking on significant cultural resources, including archaeological sites, if the undertaking was funded, licensed, or otherwise controlled by the federal agency. Within a decade, a full-blown archaeological infrastructure was created, involving hundreds of archaeologists in private and institutionally based contract archaeology firms and individual consultancies, all providing archaeological consulting services—essentially archaeological impact studies—and hundreds more in federal, state, and local agencies who were charged with planning and review responsibilities to ensure compliance with the new preservation laws and regulations. While hard figures are difficult to obtain, \$100 million is probably a conservative estimate of the amount of money that is spent on archaeological contracts in

the United States each year.

As a new profession, the field of cultural resource management developed rather suddenly. The laws required archaeological reviews of many projects, but there were few regulations or procedures available to guide the practice of cultural resource management, and no archaeologists specifically trained to do the work. Everything had to be learned from the beginning. What qualifications should the principal archaeologists have? How much sampling was sufficient to locate sites? Which sites were significant and which were not? Is it better to preserve a site by changing a project to avoid it, or should the site be excavated in order to obtain the data it contains?

In addition to those questions, which were at least issues of an archaeological nature, there arose a whole host of problems for which most academically trained archaeologists were entirely unprepared. Many problems arose from the business orientation of the new field of applied archaeology. Most of the research, for example, was (and still is) done by contracts competitively awarded to CRM firms or organizations (hence the term contract archaeology). Few archaeologists had experience in matters of contractual obligations, liabilities, and the need to be responsive to a client in terms of schedule, product (an acceptable report), and fiscal accountability. In addition, the field spawned a whole new set of ethical concerns and dilemmas. Archaeologists were required to be part scholar, part business person, and few were prepared for it.

In the early years of the field, CRM
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archaeologists had no choice but to learn by doing. But today, after two decades of cultural resource management, with hundreds if not thousands of practitioners in a field that offers a viable career opportunity to archaeologists (and certainly more jobs than academic archaeology), one would expect that a solid curriculum of specialized training in CRM would be well established at colleges and universities throughout the country.

The sad truth is that few colleges and universities offer specialized training in cultural resource management. After more than twenty years, our students are still entering the CRM field, where they are responsible for making decisions that affect the cultural patrimony of our nation, without professional training. They begin working with little understanding of the legislation, regulations, and practice of public archaeology, and even less experience in business, contracts, and archaeological ethics as they apply to CRM. Most are still getting on-the-job training, and, as Hester Davis of the Arkansas Archaeological Survey has pointed out, learning by doing "is no way to treat archaeological resources."

While it is difficult to measure how many colleges and universities offer specialized training in CRM, it is possible to obtain a general picture by examining the *AAA Guide*, an annual listing of departments offering anthropology and archaeology, published by the American Anthropological Association. In the 1991-1992 issue, the *Guide* lists forty-five colleges and universities in the United States with at least one full-time faculty member who cite CRM as an area of expertise. Many others have part-time, adjunct, and research faculty who list CRM as a special area. And more than fifty institutions indicate that they have a research facility devoted to CRM or contract archaeology.

By contrast, only seventeen colleges and universities list an academic specialization in cultural resource management. Of these, there are eleven Master's specializations (ten Master of Arts, one Master of

Science), four bachelor's programs, and two undergraduate "certificates" in CRM. Many institutions have individual courses dealing with some aspects of CRM, and many offer "training" or "employment opportunities" through their contract archaeology facility. But taking a single course in CRM, I would argue, or working on a field crew on a contract project, is not sufficient to provide the student with adequate professional training.

The figures cited above are disturbing for a number of reasons. They suggest that while many professors claim CRM as a special field of expertise, few seem to be devoting much attention to formally educating students in the discipline. In fact, the mere listing of CRM as a special area in the *AAA Guide* does not imply that it is a teaching specialty; it may simply mean that the professor does CRM consulting in addition to teaching. Equally problematic is the small number of formal degree programs in CRM compared to the large number of institutions with some sort of contract facility (fifteen compared to more than fifty). The disparity may suggest that many institutions are willing to earn income through contract archaeology but are reluctant to include the training of CRM professionals as part of their formal curricula: in short, they may be taking more than they are giving.

There are probably several reasons for the reluctance of the American system of higher education to make a firm commitment to the training of professional CRM archaeologists. Historically, the burgeoning of the CRM field created a rift in the academic community that still simmers today, although the debate is less openly acknowledged than in the 1970s. Many academic archaeologists looked down on CRM archaeology, with its competition and business aspects, as being somehow "dirty"—one archaeologist who disdained the new field called it "mercenary archaeology." Also, the field was not considered to be pure research, since areas of study were dictated not by research interests but by the selection of an area for development or other adverse effect and many academics pointed to

the low quality of much of the work in CRM archaeology.

In addition, many of those who first entered the new CRM field were undergraduate students and graduate students who left their graduate studies; some were truly failed academics, and others were not even archaeologists. One newspaper article on the controversy between academic archaeology and the new public archaeology described the dispute as a battle between scholars and shovel bums.

The rift between academic archaeologists and CRM practitioners has healed to some degree over the years, owing largely, in my opinion, to the fact that the preponderance of funding available for archaeological research in this country is in contract archaeology. This means that there are few archaeologists who specialize in U.S. archaeology or have some technical skill (e.g., faunal analysis) who are not involved in some way in CRM, either as a part-time consultant or a seasonal researcher. Still, undercurrents of the old rift still surface at times, and a career in teaching generally has a higher status than a career in CRM archaeology; many graduates in archaeology turn to CRM as a temporary "fallback" job until they can get a position in academia.

Cultural resource management has also matured in many respects, as many regulations and procedures have become well established, and there now exists a core of professionals experienced in the practice of CRM. But the problem of quality in CRM remains a serious one, and the problem is slow to go away in part because those who enter the field are still not being specifically trained for their jobs during their college and university careers. Consequently, the CRM field continues to suffer as young professionals spend their first or second year learning on the job.

Now, more than ever, our colleges and universities must take the lead in providing specialized professional training for cultural resource managers. CRM is an important and honorable profession: what could be more honorable than preserving our nation's cultural heritage for future

generations? Moreover, the academic institution is precisely where CRM training belongs. CRM archaeologists must be trained in the history, methods, and theory of current archaeology. They must become generalists capable of dealing with the complete range of archaeological resources, including prehistoric, historical, underwater, and industrial sites. Where else but the university can this basic and comprehensive training be provided?

In addition to receiving a basic education in archaeology, students wishing to specialize in CRM must, of course, obtain systematic training in specific topics relating to public archaeology, including legislation, programs, procedures, contracts, and ethics. Some of this information can be taught in the classroom, but practical experience in the form of an internship or practicum is also essential. Ideally, a program in CRM will include a core of traditional archaeology courses in method and theory, along with a special focus in a geographical or topical area of interest, such as New World historical archaeology. The program would also include a number of courses in CRM archaeology, historic preservation, and preservation law, and, finally, an internship in which the student would work for a specified time in a closely supervised CRM position.

At the Department of Archaeology at Boston University we are developing such a program, which will lead to a Master of Arts degree in Archaeological Heritage Management. We expect to have this program in place by the Fall of 1993. The new Master's will include four required graduate courses: The Intellectual History of Archaeology; Archaeological Administration, Ethics, and the Law; Archaeological Heritage Management; and a Directed Study in Archaeological Heritage Management. The course in archaeological heritage management covers the historical, legal, and administrative contexts of CRM archaeology; the practice of public archaeology (identifying and evaluating archaeological resources, contract archaeology as a

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Russian Archaeologists to be Visiting Scholars at Boston University in Fall, 1992

Dr. Valeri I. Guliaev, Deputy Director of the Institute of Archaeology in the Russian Academy of Sciences, will be a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Archaeology at Boston University in October and November, 1992. Guliaev, a distinguished scholar of Precolumbian America and of archaeology in Russia, will be based in the Department of Archaeology during his visit to the United States, and will also travel to eleven other North American cities to give lectures as the Presidential Lecturer of the Archaeological Institute of America.

The Department of Archaeology has also extended an invitation to Dr. Genadi E. Afanasiev, Chief of the Department of Rescue Archaeology in the same institute, to be a Visiting Scholar during part of the fall. If his trip at that time proves to be feasible, he will consult both with the staff of the Office of Public Archaeology and the Center for Remote Sensing, as well as join Guliaev in meeting with other faculty and students in archaeology.

Both scholars during their visit will present a lecture or seminar, which will be open to the public. Dates and topics will be set in September, and Center members will be notified by mail. This visit by the two Russian archaeologists is supported in part by a grant from the Humanities Foundation of Boston University's College of Liberal Arts.

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the University of California Press and Thames and Hudson. The Myers will spend the summer of 1992 recording sites by camera balloon. In May they will be in Crete on the island of Pseira and at the mountain settlement at Kavousi, and in June, they will participate in the Boston University Nikopolis Project in Greece. July will find them at Humeima, Petra,

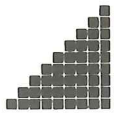


Madaba, and Umm el-Jimal as they begin a pilot project for an aerial atlas of Jordan.

James R. Wiseman, Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies and Chairman of the Department of Archaeology, has received a grant of almost \$16,000 from the National Geographic Society for the second field season of the multidisciplinary Nikopolis Project (see *Context* 9:3-4, pages 1-4), which will be conducted during May-July, 1992. Other support has come from the "Friends of the Nikopolis Project." Wiseman will also direct the Boston University Field School in the same region.

Anne Yentsch, Research Fellow in the Department of Archaeology and who is involved in landscape archaeology in the mid-Atlantic region, received in 1991 the James Marston Fitch award in historic preservation for creative and innovative research on the built environment.

Dr. Yentsch presented a lecture at Boston University on April 16, 1992, entitled "Eighteenth Century Town and Plantation Landscapes." The lecture was sponsored by the Center for Archaeological Studies and the Department of Archaeology at Boston University.



CALENDAR

May 17, 1992

Commencement Ceremonies.

May 4-15, 1992

Archaeological Resource Management Conference in Cairo, Egypt.

June 1-July 11, 1992

Nikopolis Field School. Professor James R. Wiseman, Director (see *Context* 9:3-4, pages 1-4).

June 6-14, 1992

Massachusetts Archaeology Week (see this issue of *Context*, page 9).

June 22-July 31, 1992

Spencer-Pierce-Little Farm Field School and Workshop. Professor Mary Beaudry, Director (see this issue of *Context*, page 12).

October 30-November 1, 1992

A Celebration of Archaeology Series (see this issue of *Context*, page 8).

March 15-19, 1993

Context and Human Society Lecture Series. Professor George Bass of Texas A&M University will be the speaker.

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business), and issues and controversies in CRM (e.g., archaeology in the public interest, reburial of human remains, underwater cultural resources, ethical and professional dilemmas).

The required directed study will be a three-month, full-time internship in an appropriate public or private agency, firm, or other organization involved in the practice of CRM archaeology. Students interested in conducting archaeological investigations as part of the CRM process will be placed in a CRM firm or institution, and will be engaged in active research for a public archaeology project. Students who wish to pursue a career in CRM administration might-

work for a municipal, state, or federal agency or institution involved in archaeological heritage management.

The internship, together with the coursework in general archaeology and specialized study in archaeological heritage management, should be a positive step in training a new generation of professional cultural resource managers who will be ready to enter the field without having to learn by doing. As Hester Davis has said, our cultural resources deserve this much.

Ricardo J. Elia, Director of Boston University's Office of Public Archaeology, will direct the new M.A. program in Archaeological Heritage Management. Profiles of the Past appears as a regular feature in Context.

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Context is the newsletter of the Center for Archaeological Studies and is published twice a year. Institutions and individuals may subscribe separately to *Context* at a cost of \$10 per year.

Membership in the Center is open to the public; annual dues are \$20 (\$10 for students); benefits include a subscription to *Context*, invitations to attend fall and spring lecture series and other events, and the use of the Center's library facilities. The Center also offers special seminars for the public during the academic year and summer field schools in the Boston area and abroad. Other categories of membership are: Contributing Member, \$50; Institutional, \$50; Patron, \$100; Benefactor, \$500; and Corporate, \$1000. Please make checks payable to the Center for Archaeological Studies and send to the Center office at Boston University, 675 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215. Gifts to the Center are tax-deductible.

Editor-in-Chief: James R. Wiseman.

Managing Editor: Lucy Wiseman.

Editorial Board: Ricardo J. Elia, Creighton Gabel, Norman Hammond, Fred S. Kleiner.

Faculty and Research Appointments in the Department of Archaeology

(1991-92): Professors Creighton Gabel, Norman Hammond, Fred S. Kleiner, James R. Wiseman. Associate Professors Mary C. Beaudry, Curtis N. Runnels, Paul E. Zimansky. Assistant Professors Kathryn A. Bard, Julie Hansen, Patricia A. McAnany. Research Professors Farouk El-Baz, George (Rip) Rapp, J. Wilson Myers. Adjunct Associate Professors Clemency C. Coggins, Ricardo J. Elia. Visiting Assistant Professor Murray McClellan. Distinguished Research Fellow Gordon Willey. Research Associate Gerald Kelso. Research Fellows William K. Barnett, Julie Benyo, Timothy G. Baugh, Helen Sorayya Carr, Tracey Cullen, John A. Gifford, Paul Goldberg, Thomas W. Killion, Georgeana Little, Priscilla Murray, Eleanor Emlen Myers, Steven Pendery, Tjeerd H. van Andel, Elizabeth C. Stone, Al B. Wesolowsky, Ann Yentsch.

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