



# ASOR

Summer 2002  
Volume 52, Number 2

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

## NEW OFFICERS TO LEAD ASOR

On July 1, the new leadership of ASOR officially took over. With most ASOR members either in the field or finding some other escape from the rigors of the academic year, the transition was a quiet one.

As announced in the Spring issue of this Newsletter, Lawrence Geraty has now taken on the role of ASOR President. Larry Herr was voted in as the new Chair of the Committee on Publications. He will join David McCreery (CAP) and Doug Clark (CAMP) to fill out the Chair positions on the Board of ASOR.

Also at last November's members meeting, six new members were elected to the Board of Trustees. The new Institutional representatives are Bruce Routledge, Timothy Harrison and Joe Seger. The new Individual representatives are Eric Cline, Beth Nakhai and Stuart Swiny. All have been active with ASOR's annual meeting, publishing program and other committees.

The ASOR Board of Trustees elected Martha Sharp Joukowsky new Vice President of ASOR, replacing R. Thomas Schaub, at their Spring meeting in April. At the same meeting, the Board appointed Ed Lugenbeal as ASOR's new Treasurer. The post had been vacant for more than a year.

### Treasurer

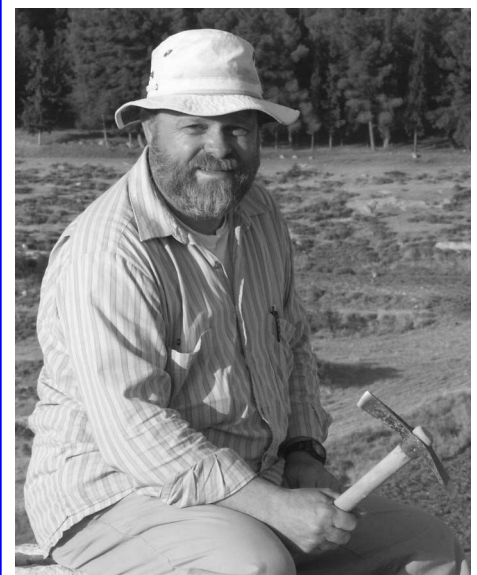
At the meeting of the ASOR Board of Trustees in April, Edward N. Lugenbeal was voted in as ASOR's new Treasurer. Ed is Professor of Business at Atlantic Union College in Lancaster, MA. Prof. Lugenbeal brings to the position considerable business and administrative experience, having served as the Dean of the Faculty at Atlantic Union College and Vice-President of Interlink Inc., a circulation management service. Ed is also a trained Anthropologist with a B.A. in Religion from La Sierra University, a B.D. in New Testament studies from Andrews University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin in 1976. He has excavated at a number of archaeological sites in the Midwestern United States, and directed the Expedition



to En Gedi in Israel in 1979. We look forward to working with Ed in this position.

### Chair of Publications

Larry G. Herr takes over from Albert Leonard, Jr. who served two terms as Chair of the Committee on Publications. Larry (Ph.D. Harvard University, 1977) is Professor of Archaeology and Biblical Studies at Canadian University College and the President of ASOR in Canada. He has excavated extensively in Jordan, principally as one of the leaders of the Madaba Plains Project. He has co-edited five volumes on the excavations at Tall al-'Umayri, Jordan (1989, 1991, 1997, 1999, 2002). As Associate Editor of BASOR, Larry has also long been an active and vocal supporter of ASOR's publishing program.



# Salute to ASOR

By the time this Newsletter issue gets to press my term as ASOR President will have been spent. As reviewed in my report at the Members Meeting in Boulder (see Minutes at [www.asor.org/membgen.htm](http://www.asor.org/membgen.htm)) the past six years have seen ASOR move forward on several fronts, including the forging of an independent Annual Meeting with increasing participation and extended programs, the institution of yearly Honors and Awards recognitions, and the continued growth of our publications activity and of our participation in research overseas. But nothing that ASOR accomplishes "just happens." All of its results are generated through the generous contributions of time and effort, and of financial support, invested by a broad and dedicated constituency. During my term our organization has been specially blessed by having the leadership of an outstanding set of officers, of a vital and supportive group of trustees, and of a dedicated staff team.

But beyond this there is also a virtual army of other individuals serving on committees, editorial boards, and dig teams. So let me take this opportunity, my last as your president, to express my most heartfelt and sincere appreciation for the deliberate and good work that all of you, as members and friends, in so many and varied ways, have invested in supporting the ASOR Mission through these several years. ASOR thrives on the enthusiasm and energy of its members and constituents.

Thank you all for contributing your time and substance to our noble cause. May P.E. MacAllister and our new President Larry Geraty and their team continue to enjoy similar blessings of consideration and support as they lead us forth into the years ahead.

At the conclusion of the April Board of Trustees Meetings in Cambridge, I was feted at a closing dinner. I want here to publicly extend my most sincere appreciation for the honors given and for the kind words that

were there expressed. In the course of the evening I found my own chance to remonstrate with the following poem. With this I'll close!

## Swan Song of a Lame Duck

Now I've been led to understand  
that in the matters here at hand  
I've very little role!

Not wit or wisdom to deliver  
or words of inspiration dither  
nor wax astute or droll!

It's time for others to give verity  
let the new guy, name of Geraty  
rock and roll!

And yes, for P.E. in his fashion  
with pith, and couth, and beaucoup  
passion  
the stage still stroll!

My time to lead is near exhausted  
some say its none too soon I lost it  
the bell doth toll!

So here's a final curtain call  
a chance to speak straight to y'all  
and bear my soul!

ASOR's had its highs and some lows  
powered forth by super-egos  
with noble flow!

A hundred plus and now we find  
some of us ain't that far behind  
as grey hairs grow!

A solid group of digger unions  
whose future always lies in ruins  
as Meyers is want to crow!

A bunch with whom I've had great  
pleasure  
with memories beaucoup to treasure  
with rosy glow

And yes, there's been some consternation  
but always, after contemplation,  
No lasting woe!

So just like an old shoe - ASOR  
As you get older I'll love you more  
I hope you know!

*Joe D. Seger, Outgoing President  
June, 2002*

The American Schools of Oriental Research  
is a nonprofit, scientific and educational  
organization founded in 1900.

*P. E. MacAllister*  
Chairman of the Board

*Larry Geraty*  
President

*Martha Joukowsky*  
Vice President

*James Strange*  
Secretary

*Larry G. Herr*  
Chair, Committee on Publications

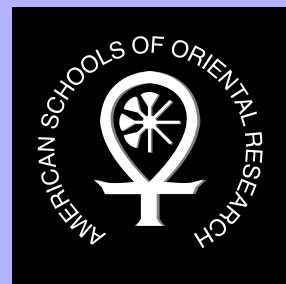
*David McCreery*  
Chair, Committee on Archaeological Policy

*Douglas Clark*  
Chair, Committee on Annual Meeting

*Rudolph H. Dornemann*  
Executive Director

*Billie Jean Collins*  
Director of Publications

ASOR  
656 Beacon Street, 5th floor  
Boston, MA 02215-2010  
Tel. (617) 353-6570  
Fax. (617) 353-6575  
E-mail: [asor@bu.edu](mailto:asor@bu.edu)



## *The ASOR Newsletter*

Billie Jean Collins, Editor  
Chris Madell, Assistant Editor

Suite 330, 825 Houston Mill Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329  
Tel. (404) 727-8989  
Fax. (404) 727-4719  
e-mail: [asorpubs@asor.org](mailto:asorpubs@asor.org)

*The ASOR Newsletter* (ISSN 0361-6029)  
is published quarterly by the American  
Schools of Oriental Research

Copyright 2002 by  
The American Schools of Oriental Research

[www.asor.org](http://www.asor.org)

## Advertise your Site

Does your field project have a web page? Would you like to advertise it to others?

We are maintaining a list of projects in the Middle East on the Links page of our website, and would like to expand it to include other current projects. See the following page for the list:

[www.asor.org/linksASOR.html](http://www.asor.org/linksASOR.html)

(click on Excavations at the top right).

If you would like to include your excavation's page, just email [asor@bu.edu](mailto:asor@bu.edu) with the address of the site and we will add it.

NEWS: The 2002–2003 Mesopotamian Fellow is Sarah Graff (PhD student, University of Chicago). Her research project is "Production and Distribution in Spatial and Historical Context: the Case of Northwestern Syria."

## Publications 2001–2002

This has been another active and successful year for the Publications office, with two new titles in each of our Book and Archaeological Reports series helping us to achieve record sales volume. And in a year when many academic publishers have suffered substantial operating losses, we are also fiscally sound! Concerns expressed over the publication budget in recent years have abated as the "real picture" that the accrual accounting shows is one of a solid, healthy operation.

Our year end fiscal picture is particularly remarkable given the circumstances we have worked under in the last year. Due to a major restructuring of our financial reporting to a fully accrual-based system, FY2002 was a "shake-out" year in which, for a variety of accounting reasons, we

carried considerably more expenses than normally would be the case. Fortunately, these expenses were offset by additional sources of revenue, including a generous gift from P.E. Macallister, the support of readers of *Near Eastern Archaeology*, and active book sales. A shift to accounting for books on a cost-of-goods-sold basis also helped.

New titles this year include *Archaeology and the Religions of Canaan and Israel* by Beth Nakhai, *Desire, Discord and Death* by Neal Walls (Books Series), *The Earliest Prehistory of Cyprus* edited by Stuart Swiny and the long awaited *Shechem III* by Ted Campbell and G.R.H. Wright (Arch. Reports). Sales have been buoyant. With the increasing international exposure we are enjoying through the marketing efforts of our distributor, The David Brown Book Co./Oxbow Books, sales for the year totalled \$53,701—a record for the second year in a row.

The journals also continue to thrive. Owing to the efforts of editor Jim Weinstein, the *Bulletin of ASOR* continues to appear on time and in pristine shape. The *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* is up to date and continues to fill an important niche in the field of Assyriological research thanks to its editor, Piotr Michalowski. The new editor of *Near Eastern Archaeology*, Ted Lewis, is working hard, with the assistance of ASOR staff, to try and get production back on schedule. We ask for your continued patience through this difficult process. We have a new designer for *NEA*, Monica McLeod, who has also redesigned the Publications web pages giving them a more professional look ([www.asor.org/pubs](http://www.asor.org/pubs))! In March, we introduced online subscription forms for our journals. This marketing initiative has resulted in a number of new subscriptions from all corners of the globe.

## ASOR Outreach Education Public Lecture

Friday November 22, 2002

8:00pm–9:30pm

Marriott Eaton Centre Hotel, Toronto  
Grand Ballroom C/D

### The Future of the Past: Archaeology and the Reshaping of the Middle East

*Amy Dockser Marcus*

In the Middle East, the fight is often over who controls the past as much as who controls the land. In recent years, archaeological discoveries at biblical sites in Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip have revealed new information about the way we look at the region's past. Amy Dockser Marcus, a former Middle East correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal*, will talk about what these discoveries may also mean for the future of the Middle East, a region where archaeology plays a critical role in political disputes. Ms. Dockser Marcus, the author of "The View From Nebo: How Archaeology is Rewriting the Bible and Reshaping the Middle East," spent 18 months traveling to biblical archaeology sites in the region and interviewing leading archaeologists about the implications of their work.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF FELLOWSHIPS 2003-2004

THE W.F. ALBRIGHT INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH (AIAR) JERUSALEM

Annual Professorship: \$30,000 award.

The stipend is \$14,200 plus \$15,800 for room and half-board for appointee and spouse at the Institute. Open to post-doctoral scholars in Near Eastern archaeology, geography, history, and Biblical studies. U.S. citizens are eligible for entire award. Non-U.S. citizens may apply but, by U.S. law, are only eligible for non-governmental funds (totalling \$15,000). Residence at the Institute is required. Appointment: 10 months. The professorship period should be continuous, without frequent trips outside the country. Application deadline: October 15, 2002.

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships.

The stipend is a \$40,000 award for 12 months (\$60,000 to be available - 1 1/2 awards). Open to scholars in the fields of Near Eastern archaeology, anthropology, geography, ancient history, philology, epigraphy, Biblical studies, Islamic studies, religion, art history, literature, philosophy or related disciplines holding a Ph.D. (or equivalent) as of January 1, 2003, who are U.S. citizens (or alien residents residing in the United States for the last three years). Research project must have a clear humanities focus. Research period: four to twelve months (stipend varies with the duration of the fellowship - maximum stipend is \$40,000 for 12 months). Residence at the Institute is preferred. The research period should be continuous, without frequent trips outside the country. Application deadline: October 15, 2002.

Ernest S. Frerichs Fellow / Program Coordinator: \$19,000, award

The stipend is \$10,900; remainder (\$8,100) is for room and half-board at the Institute. Open to pre-doctoral students and post-doctoral scholars specializing in Near Eastern archaeology, geography, history and biblical studies. Recipient is expected to assist the Albright's Director in planning and implementing the Ernest S. Frerichs Program for Albright Fellows. Residence at the Institute is required. Research period: 10 months. The research period should be continuous, without frequent trips outside the country. Application deadline: October 15, 2002.

Samuel H. Kress Fellowship: \$16,500 award.

The stipend is \$8,400; remainder (\$8,100) is for room and half board at the Institute. Dissertation research fellowship for students specializing in architecture, art history and archaeology. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, or North American citizens studying at U.S. universities. Research Period: 10 months. Research project must have a clear focus on art history or architecture. The research period should be continuous, without frequent trips outside the country. Application deadline: October 15, 2002.

Samuel H. Kress Joint Athens-Jerusalem Fellowship: \$15,000 award.

A joint fellowship for research at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens and at the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. The stipend is \$7,600; remainder (\$7,400) is for room and board at the two institutions. Pre-doctoral research fellowship for students specializing in art history, architecture, archaeology or classical studies who are U.S. citizens, or North American citizens studying at U.S. universi-

**The W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research**

is pleased to announce the fourth annual (2003)

**Trude Dothan Lectureship in Ancient Near Eastern Studies**

sponsored by the Albright Institute with the support of the Dorot Foundation

Dr. Dorothea Arnold, Lila Acheson Wallace Curator Egyptian Art  
Department, Metropolitan Museum of Art

will give three presentations

**The Archaeological Context of the Middle Kingdom Seal Impressions from Lisht South**

under the auspices of Al-Quds University, Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.  
at the Ambassador Hotel, Nablus Road, Sheikh Jarrah

**The Royal Women of Amarna**

Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the Hebrew University  
Mt. Scopus Campus

**The Mysterious Matter of Size in Egyptian Art**

Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the  
W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, 26 Salah ed-Din Street\*

each lecture will be followed by a reception

because of limited space at the Albright Institute, kindly RSVP for this lecture\*  
Tel: 02-628-8956, Fax: 02-626-4424, e-mail: director@albright.org.il

# ASOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS

ALL NEW!

## V *The Earliest Prehistory of Cyprus*

STUART SWINY, EDITOR

The remarkable developments concerning the earliest prehistory of Cyprus are presented by scholars immediately involved with the research who discuss the evidence and its interpretation. No other publication encompasses recent findings from the period of earliest colonization of the island to the Neolithic sedentary communities. Together with a review of evidence from the Levant, this collection of papers is essential reading for prehistorians and archaeologists working in the region.

ISBN 0-89757-051-0 • 184 pages • \$84.50 (cloth)

## VI *Shechem III*

TED CAMPBELL AND G. R. H. WRIGHT

This two volume set presents the stratigraphy and architectural remains of the tell of ancient (biblical) Shechem on the eastern outskirts of the modern municipality of Nablus, in what was at the time of excavation the independent village of Balâtah. First identified as an ancient ruin and proposed as ancient Shechem in 1903, the site was excavated by an Austro-German team in the period between 1913 and 1934, and by the Drew-McCormick Archaeological Expedition, later named the Joint Expedition, between 1956 and 1973. Now, 87 years after Ernest Sellin began the dig, and 27 years after the expedition mounted by G. Ernest Wright left the field, this volume sets out to give that sort of portrayal to this mound of ancient cities that began its history at least 4000 years BCE and ended its pre-modern history in 107 BCE.

ISBN 0-89757-058-8 • 2 volumes • \$175 (cloth)

## VII *Engendering Aphrodite: Women and Society in Ancient Cyprus*

DIANE BOLGER AND NANCY SERWINT, EDITORS

The last three decades have witnessed the introduction of gendered approaches to the social sciences, in general, and archaeology, in particular, developing initially within the rubric of "women's studies" by American feminist and other politically-minded academics who formed part of the Women's Movement of the early 1970s. By examining archaeological remains from the perspective of gender, we can begin to formulate approaches to the study of past cultures more deliberately and intimately. The papers in this volume focus primarily on issues of gender and society in ancient Cyprus from the Neolithic to Roman periods. The introduction of gender as a focal point in archaeological research will continue to advance our discipline in the decades to come by contributing vital new approaches to the social interactions of the island's rich and dynamic past.

ISBN 0-89757-059-6 • xvi + 464 pages • \$99.95 (cloth) • September 2002



Tel. (800) 791-9354  
Fax (860) 945-9468  
david.brown.bk.co@snet.net

Shipping not included. ASOR members  
receive a 33% discount on all ASOR titles.

**The David Brown Book Co.**

Box 511 • Oakville, CT 06779 • [oxbowbooks.com](http://oxbowbooks.com)

ties. Research period: 10 months (5 months in Athens, 5 months in Jerusalem). The research period should be continuous, without frequent trips outside Greece and Israel. Application deadline: October 25, 2002.

George A. Barton Fellowship: \$7,000 award.

The stipend is \$2,950; remainder (\$4,050) is for room and half-board at the Institute. Open to seminarians, pre-doctoral students and recent Ph.D. recipients specializing in Near Eastern archaeology, geography, history and biblical studies. Research period: 5 months. The research period should be continuous, without frequent trips outside the country. Application deadline: October 15, 2002.

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowships: \$34,500 for three awards (\$11,500 each).

The fellowships are open to Bulgarian, Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, and Slovak scholars. Candidates should not be permanently resident outside the six countries concerned, and should have obtained a doctorate by the time the fellowship is awarded. Fellows are expected to reside at the Albright if room is available. Each fellowship is for three months, during one of the following periods: September 1, 2003 - November 30, 2003; December 1, 2003 - February 28, 2004; and March 1, 2004 - May 31, 2004. The research period should be continuous, without frequent trips outside the country. Application deadline: April 1, 2003.

Educational and Cultural Affairs Fellowships (ECA)

a. Junior Research Fellowships: \$48,000 for three awards (\$16,000 each). The stipend is \$7,900; remainder (\$8,100) is for room and half-board at the Institute. Open to pre-doctoral students and recent Ph.D. recipients in Near Eastern Studies who are U.S. citizens. Research period: 10 or 5 months (stipend varies with the duration of the fellowship -- maximum stipend is \$16,000 for 10 months). The research period should be continuous, without frequent trips outside the country. Application deadline: October 15, 2002.

b. Associate Fellowships: Six senior and seven junior fellowship administrative fee awards. Application deadline: April 14, 2003.

W. F. Albright Associate Fellowships.

No stipend. Open to senior, post-doctoral, and pre-doctoral researchers. Administrative fee required. Application deadline: April 14, 2003.

Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) Fellowships for Advanced Multi-country Research.\*

Eight awards of up to \$6,000 each, with an additional \$3,000 for travel. Open to scholars pursuing research on broad questions of multi-country significance in the fields of humanities, social sciences, and related natural sciences in countries in the Near and Middle East and South Asia. Doctoral candidates and established scholars with US citizenship are eligible to apply as individuals or in teams. Preference will be given to candidates examining comparative and/or cross-regional questions requiring research in two or more countries. Application deadline: December 31, 2002.

\*For information and application, write to: The Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), P.O. Box 37012 NHB-East Court CE-123, MRC 178, Washington D.C., 20013-7012. (Email:caorc@caorc.si.edu Web: www.caorc.org)

\*Award subject to availability of funds.

For information and application forms write to: Dr. John R. Spencer, W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Department of Religious Studies, 20700 North Park Blvd., University Heights, OH 44118. Phone: (216) 397-4705; Fax: (216) 397-4478; E-mail: spencer@jcu.edu. Or visit the Albright's web site at: [www.aiar.org](http://www.aiar.org)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

TORONTO IN 2002

ASOR ANNUAL MEETING

20-24 November  
Marriott Eaton Centre

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Plenary Session on  
Archaeology in Afghanistan  
by David Stronach

Special plenary on Tel Miqne-Ekron  
by Sy Gitin and Trude Dothan

Public lecture on traveling the Holy  
Land with archaeologists

### SESSIONS ON:

Arabia, Anatolia, Cyprus, Egypt,  
Israel/Palestine, Jordan,  
Mesopotamia and Syria

Biblically related sites and concerns  
surrounding Qumran, Egypt and  
Canaan

Legitimacy of kings, ethnic identity

Ancient and modern technologies  
and materials

Archaeology of the land and the sea

Ancient art

All period from the paleolithic on

### A CHANCE TO:

Meet with colleagues  
Buy books at discount prices  
Keep up with the field

### AREA ATTRACTIONS:

Royal Ontario Museum  
University of Toronto  
Canada

For details and registration information,  
click on "Annual Meeting" on the  
ASOR website: [www.asor.org](http://www.asor.org)

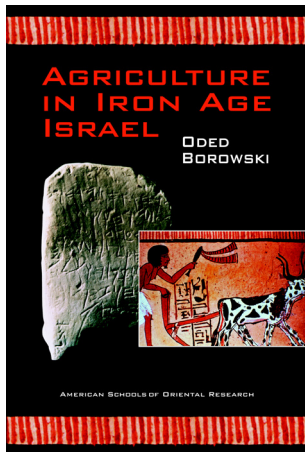


New from  
ASOR Publications

# *Agriculture in Iron Age Israel*

Oded Borowski

Reprint edition



Taking advantage of the increasing investigation and analysis of archaeological field data relating to agriculture and food production, Borowski integrates the latest results with the related textual evidence both from the Bible and from outside it. The four major areas investigated are the land, field work and grain production, cultigens and cultivars, and factors in soil fertility and crop yield.

\$29.95 • Postage not included  
ASOR members receive a 33% discount

**The David  
Brown Book Co.**

Box 511  
Oakville, CT 06779  
oxbowbooks.com

Tel. (800) 791-9354  
Fax (860) 945-9468  
david.brown.bk.co@snet.net

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FELLOWSHIPS 2003-2004

THE AMERICAN CENTER OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH (AMMAN)

Deadline for all applications is February 1, 2003

**The Kress Fellowship in the Art and Archaeology of Jordan:** One or more three- to six-month fellowships for pre-doctoral students completing dissertation research in an art historical topic. History of art is defined to include: art history, archaeology, architectural history, and in some cases classical studies. Applicants must be Ph.D. candidates and U.S. citizens or foreign nationals who have matriculated at U.S. institutions. The maximum award for six months is \$14,000.

**CAORC Fellowship:** Six or more two- to six-month fellowships for pre-doctoral students and post-doctoral scholars. Fields of study include all areas of the humanities and the natural and social sciences. Topics should contribute to scholarship in Near Eastern studies. U.S. citizenship required. Maximum award is \$17,000. Subject to funding.

**CAORC Senior Fellowship:** Two or more two- to six-month fellowships for post-doctoral scholars pursuing research or publication projects in the natural and social sciences, humanities, and associated disciplines relating to the Near East. U.S. citizenship required. Maximum award is \$25,000. Subject to funding.

**National Endowment For The Humanities (NEH) Fellowship:** One four-month fellowship for scholars who have a Ph.D. or have completed their professional training. Fields of research include: modern and classical languages, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics, and the history, criticism, and theory of the arts. Social and political scientists are encouraged to apply. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or foreign nationals living in the U.S. three years immediately preceding the application deadline. The award is \$20,000.

**Jennifer C. Groot Fellowship:** Three awards of \$1,500 each to support beginners in archaeological fieldwork who have been accepted as staff members on archaeological projects with ASOR/CAP affiliation in Jordan. Open to undergraduate and graduate students. U.S. or Canadian citizenship required.

**Harrell Family Fellowship:** One award of \$1,500 to support a graduate student for participation in an ACOR-approved archaeological research project, which has passed an academic review process. Senior project staff whose expenses are being borne largely by the project are ineligible. Open to enrolled graduate students of any nationality.

**Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship:** One or more awards for one or two months of residency at ACOR during the period of June 1, 2003 through May 31, 2004. Open to graduate students of any nationality participating in an archaeological project or a research project in Jordan. The award includes room and board at ACOR and a monthly stipend of \$400. This fellowship may be combined with the Groot or Harrell fellowships.

CAORC, NEH, Kress, and Bikai Fellows will reside at the ACOR facility in Amman while conducting their research.

ACOR at 656 Beacon Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02215 (Tel: 617-353-6571; Fax: 617-353-6575; Email: acor@bu.edu), or: P.O. Box 2470, Amman, Jordan (Fax: 011-9626-534-4181). Or visit: <http://www.bu.edu/acor>

# The Collapse of an Early Urban Center in Northern Mesopotamia: The Case of Tell Hamoukar

Jason Ur, *Mesopotamian Fellow 2001–2002*  
*The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*

In the middle of the third millennium BC, Northern Mesopotamia experienced the sudden growth of sites from villages of 10–20 ha into cities of around 100 ha, most notably Brak, Leilan, Mozan, Hawa, Taya, and Khoshi. To this list must be added Hamoukar, which has been the focus of excavation and survey by a Syrian-American project directed by McGuire Gibson of the University of Chicago Oriental Institute and Amr al-Azm of the Syrian Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums since 1999. The abandonment of third millennium urban sites has become a topic of much debate. Some see this to be the result of an interregional catastrophic climatic event, which caused a period of heightened aridity; others see purely localized abandonments and shifts of settlement patterns. In the northeastern corner of Syria, Hamoukar sat at the top of the Upper Khabur basin settlement hierarchy; thus understanding Hamoukar's origin and decline might offer clues for the evolution of the regional settlement system as a whole.

In the initial season of the Hamoukar Expedition, a systematic surface collection demonstrated that the southeastern quarter of the lower town had a high concentration of baked brick fragments and late third millennium pottery. This area seemed to be an ideal locus to investigate the nature of urban society at Hamoukar as well as the reasons for its abandonment. More generally, we hoped that the data from this excavation might also contribute to the ongoing debate on the collapse of the third millennium urban system throughout northern Mesopotamia.

With generous funding from the 2000–2001 ASOR Mesopotamian Fellowship, a 460 m<sup>2</sup> horizontal exposure in the lower town was opened in Area H. Because the area had been mechanically plowed for the

past 20–30 years, the walls were only preserved to a height of 20–40 cm; living surfaces were rarely deeper than 50 cm beneath the tell surface. Area H proved to be a wealthy residential neighborhood of large well-built houses, narrow alleys, and a broad open plaza. The most completely excavated house occupied the southeastern quadrant of the trench; it consisted of a series of rooms around a central courtyard. A long entryway leads from an alley to the north into the baked brick paved courtyard with a well. A finely plastered square reception room at the northwestern corner contained a hearth in its center with benches along the walls. An open space to the east contained a pair of *tannurs* (bread ovens). This area was separated from a large open paved courtyard to the east by a low wall. This courtyard was probably used to house animals. To the north, a smaller house, also organized around a paved courtyard with a well, was partially excavated. The western half of the trench contained a large open space, paved at its southern end and littered with household refuse at its north end; a drain ran down the center. The entryways of two or three other unexcavated houses could be accessed from this plaza.

As we reached floors within these houses, it became clear that the abandonment of Area H had not been a peaceful one. The floors of the larger interior rooms and the paved courtyards were littered with smashed but reconstructable ceramic vessels on them. The quantity and distribution of vessels suggest that these houses had been systematically looted. The looters had gone from room to room to collect their contents and gather them in a few places where they could be rummaged through for items of value. The low-value ceramic vessels were then deliberately destroyed, in most cases by being thrown into one of the

corners of the rooms. For example, one corner of the reception room had at least fifteen smashed fineware beer-bakers. Dozens of reconstructable pots and bowls were recovered but very few metal or stone objects; presumably these were considered valuable and were taken by the looters. This event was probably site-wide: in the other smaller lower town excavations, similar deliberately smashed ceramic assemblages have been recovered. The inhabitants of Area H may have met a similarly violent end. In two rooms, the partial remains of one or two individuals were found amongst the smashed ceramics. Scavenging animals must have disarticulated the unburied bodies.

Although all items of value were taken by the looters, the elite status of the Area H residential neighborhood is apparent from the abundance of baked brick. Not only are central courtyards paved, but so are large open exterior spaces connected to houses. The large plaza in the western half of Area H contained a pavement almost 10 meters wide. The residents of the Area H houses invested considerable resources in maintaining their private spaces as well as inter-household semi-public areas and streets. As is the case throughout Mesopotamia, fuel sources were rare; despite this fact, baked brick was not uncommon at Hamoukar: all other trenches in late third millennium levels at Hamoukar have revealed baked brick pavements at this time.

Although no epigraphic material was recovered, the ceramics from Area H provide an approximate date for the final phase of occupation at Area H. Most significant are a series of vessels decorated with bands of comb incision, which is also found in layers contemporary with the latest phases of the Naram-Sin fortress at Tell Brak and the layers which seal it; thus this is a late Akkadian or early post-Akkadian





*The large residential structure in the southeastern corner of Area D, from the east.*

("Ur III") decoration. Given the frequency of this decoration in the assemblage, we tentatively date the abandonment of Area H and the rest of the site to the early post-Akkadian period.

The organizational dynamics of the city cannot be revealed from a single trench, but some preliminary conclusions can be drawn. Within the excavated residential structures, there was no direct evidence of administration, craft production, or involvement in trade. On the other hand, the signs of household-based food production are plentiful: abundant storage jars and cooking vessels, bread ovens, and enclosed open spaces which are best interpreted as animal pens. While the source of these households' wealth is not certain, it appears that they were directly involved in the production of their own agricultural and pastoral products. Although it clearly had a diverse economy involving trade and craft production, at its basis, Hamoukar was a city of farmers.

Rather than the result of a sudden natural climatic shift, the abandonment of Hamoukar appears to have

been the result of a violent military event. If abandonment had been voluntary, in the face of climatic aridity, it is unlikely that the residents of these houses would have deliberately destroyed their contents in this manner. The reconstruction of the history of northern Mesopotamia in the third millennium is in its infancy; however, we do know that by the Akkadian period, control over the indigenous Semitic population was contested by Akkadian kings from the south, ethnic Hurrians from the north, and probably local elites. It is tempting to place the sacking of Hamoukar into the context of this struggle. The surplus-redistributing economic system that allowed the development of large urban centers was brittle, and may have collapsed without social and political stability. The Area H excavations at Hamoukar have not definitively explained the causes of the collapse of urban society at the end of the third millennium BC in northern Mesopotamia, but they have given us a small glimpse of its character and the sociocultural pressures under which it operated.

### Exhibit

#### *From Pella to Petra: Australian Archaeologists in Jordan*

Nicholson Museum  
The University of Sydney

The show will continue  
throughout 2002 and close on  
20 December.

The website features  
photographs of some objects  
in the exhibition at  
[www.usyd.edu.au/nicholson/](http://www.usyd.edu.au/nicholson/)

## OBITUARIES

Toni Marie Cross

August 12, 1945–April 11, 2002

Toni Cross, Director of the American Research Institute in Turkey since 1979, died in Ankara on April 11 after an extended illness. Toni's passing is a tremendous loss for ARIT, for Anatolian archaeology, and generally for scholarship in Turkey. Her death is also a great personal loss for the many people who valued her as friend, colleague, mentor, and confidante. In her many years as Director in Ankara, Toni touched the lives of countless individuals, from undergraduate students to senior scholars. As one of Toni's major legacies to ARIT, the library at ARIT in Ankara will henceforth be the Toni M. Cross Library.

She is survived by her husband, Professor Ihsan Çetin.

---

William Paul Anderson

William Paul Anderson, of Bryn Mawr, PA, died at his home on July 6 after a lengthy illness. Bill, son of the late William O. Anderson and Della M. Anderson (nee Paul), was born in Philadelphia, PA on November 4, 1942. He grew up in Kane, Pennsylvania and graduated from Kane Area High School in 1960. He received his B.S. in Aero-Space Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University in 1965, his M.Div. from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1969, his M.S. in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1970, and his Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of Pennsylvania in 1979.

From 1982 to the present, Bill served as a Research Associate at the University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. He spent four seasons

## THE MEDITERRANEAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST GRANTS TO ASSIST PUBLICATION

The Mediterranean Archaeological Trust, set up in 1959 for the promotion of the study of archaeology, invites applications in 2002–2003 for a programme of grants, made on a competitive basis, to assist with the publication of archaeological fieldwork in the Mediterranean world. Within the terms of the Trust, priority may be given to Bronze Age subjects. Grants for any amount, however small, will be considered, provided they expedite publication, but the maximum grant awarded to any one project will not exceed GBP 10,000.

Applications comprising a 2000 word maximum description of the proposed work and an outline budget, together with at least two, and not more than four, referees' names should be sent no later than 15 January 2003 to:

Professor Sir John Boardman  
(Mediterranean Archaeological Trust)  
Ashmolean Museum  
Oxford OX1 2PH  
UK

Fax: +44-1865-278082

The references should be sent directly by the referees or accompany the application in a sealed envelope. Successful applicants will be informed in late March 2003.

---

excavating in Lebanon and has published numerous articles related to his work. His book, *Sarepta I: The Late Bronze and Iron Age Strata of Area II, Y* was published in 1988.

Bill is survived by his wife of 37 years, Jean Jochen Anderson of Bryn Mawr; his mother, Della M. Anderson of Kane; his brother, Rev. Dennis P. of Botswana, Africa; aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

## SYRIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION 2002 PRIZE COMPETITION

In its continuing efforts to promote scholarly research and study on Syria, the Syrian Studies Association ([www.ou.edu/ssa](http://www.ou.edu/ssa)) is proud to announce its annual competition for prizes in two categories.

Work for all three categories may be self-submitted or submitted by another person, a nomination letter from a dissertation advisor is suggested in the case of the dissertation prize.

Work on any topic or in any discipline related to Syria, defined as the area known as Bilad al-Sham up until 1920, then afterwards the region of Mandate Syria (1920-1946) and then the Republic of Syria (1946 to present), are welcomed.

Prizes will be evaluated by a committee composed of recognized scholars who specialize in Syria.

The winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) in Washington, D.C. in November 2002.

Categories:

- 1) Best Doctoral Dissertation on Syria. Dissertations written and defended in a recognized doctoral program between July 2001-July 2002 are eligible for consideration, or
- 2) Best article published on Syria written in a European language, and
- 3) Best article published on Syria written in Arabic. The article must be published in a journal or a collected works. These two prizes will recognize cutting-edge work on Syria.

Submission Deadline: September 1, 2002.

For more information on eligibility and submission guidelines, please contact Keith Watenpaugh, SSA Prize Committee Chair, email: [watenpkd@lemoyne.edu](mailto:watenpkd@lemoyne.edu)



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

## September 1–6, 2002

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

## September 8–13, 2002

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

## October 12, 2002

**The Greeks Beyond the Aegean from Marseilles to the Far East.** Contact: leventcy@zenon.logos.cy.net.

## October 19–21, 2002

**Zenobia and Palmyra.** Al-Baath University, Homs, Syria. The conference aims are 1) to study new aspects of Palmyra's history before, during and after the rule of Zenobia; 2) The exploration of the ruins of Palmyra as monuments indicating the progress reached by Palmyra's civilization; and 3) The marketing of Palmyra to tourists and the impact of tourism on the preservation of the site. Deadline for submission of papers, August 15, 2002. Contact: Dr. Aoudi Salha, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Al-Baath University, Fax: (00963-31) 431065. Tel: (00963-31) 436807. Email: baath-univ@net.sy.

## November 4–6, 2002

**The Second Conference on Nabataean Studies.** Al-Hussein Bin Talal University in the cooperation with Bait al-Anbat and the Petra Region Authority. The conference aims a promoting studies on Nabataeans and providing an opportunity for all researchers and scholars to meet and exchange their experience and views. Contact: Dr. K. Amr, Chairperson of the Organizing Committee.

## November 18–19, 2002

**The Archaeology of Qumran. Recent Finds and Discussions.** Brown University. Contact: Katharina Galor (katharina\_galor@brown.edu) or Jürgen Zangenberg (zangenberg@t-online.de).

## November 20–24, 2002

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

## November 20–24, 2002

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

## November 23–26, 2002

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

## December 6–8, 2002

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

## December 14–16, 2002

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

## January 3–6, 2003

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

## January 24–26, 2003

Passages from Antiquity to Middle Ages: Family, Marriage and Death. **University of Tampere, Finland** Organizers: University of Tampere, Department of History, and Finnish Historical Society. This confer-

ence deals with ancient and medieval way of life, family, marriage and death. It concentrates on critical situations and periods during the individual life span from Antiquity to Middle Ages, e.g. childhood, marriage, and old age. Deadline for abstracts: September 10, 2002. Contact: Julia Burman, Executive Director, Finnish Historical Society, email: from\_antiquity@hotmail.com; or Katariina Mustakallio, Professor of General History, University of Tampere, Department of History, Kalevantie 4, 33100 Tampere, Finland.

## February 20–22, 2003

**Official Religion of the Upper Classes and Popular Religions of Ethnic Population Groups. Anatolia and its Neighbours in the 2nd and Early 1st Millennia BCE.** Religionswissenschaftliches Seminar, University of Bonn, Germany. Contact: Prof. Dr. Dr. Manfred Hutter, Adenauerallee 4-6, D-53113 Bonn, Fax: ++49-228-737531. Email: mhutter@uni-bonn.de

## March 2003

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

## March 28–31, 2003

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

## April 3–6, 2003

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

## June 11–17, 2003

**Fifth World Archaeological Congress.** The Catholic University of America. Washington, DC. Sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History and National Museum of the American Indian. Contact: www.american.edu/wac5.

## July 7–11, 2003

The 49<sup>e</sup> **Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale** will take place at the British Museum, London in honor of the museum's 250th anniversary. The theme will be Nineveh. Contact: www.let.leidenuniv.nl/recontre/

## August 23–26, 2003

**Common Ground. Archaeology, Art, Science, and Humanities.** The XVI International Congress of Classical Archaeology of the Associazione Internazionale di Archeologia Classica (AIAC), hosted by the Ancient Art Department of the Harvard University Art Museums, Cambridge, MA. The organizers are interested in new discoveries and new approaches in such areas as conservation, site preservation, computer technology, historiography, and museum studies. Abstracts are due 11/02. Contact: Amy Brauer, e-mail: AIAC2003@fas.harvard.edu. Tel: 617-495-3393 32; Fax: 617-495-5506.

## December 28–31, 2003

**Courtly Culture Outside the Court.** Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel. Deadline for abstracts is October 31, 2002. Contact: Dr. Nimrod Hurvitz, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, Ben Gurion University, Israel. e-mail: nhurvitz@bgumail.bgu.ac.il; tel: 08-6477947; 08-6472476; fax: 08-6472952.



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

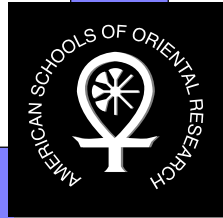
**ASOR Member/Subscriber Services**

PO Box 531  
Canton, MA 02021-0531  
Tel: (800) 821-7823  
Fax: (781) 828-8915  
E-mail: acadsvc@aol.com  
Web: asor.org

**To purchase ASOR monographs or journal back issues, contact:**

**The David Brown Book Co.**

Box 511  
Oakville, CT 06779  
Tel.: (800) 791-9354  
Fax: (860) 945-9468  
E-mail: david.brown.bk.co@snet.net  
Web: oxbowbooks.com



The American Schools of Oriental Research  
Publications Office  
825 Houston Mill Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #1040  
Leesburg, FL 34748

Moving? Please fill in the information below and return with this mailing label to:

ASOR Member/Subscriber Services  
PO Box 531  
Canton, MA 02021-0531

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Country \_\_\_\_\_  
Moving Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_