

ACOR Newsletter

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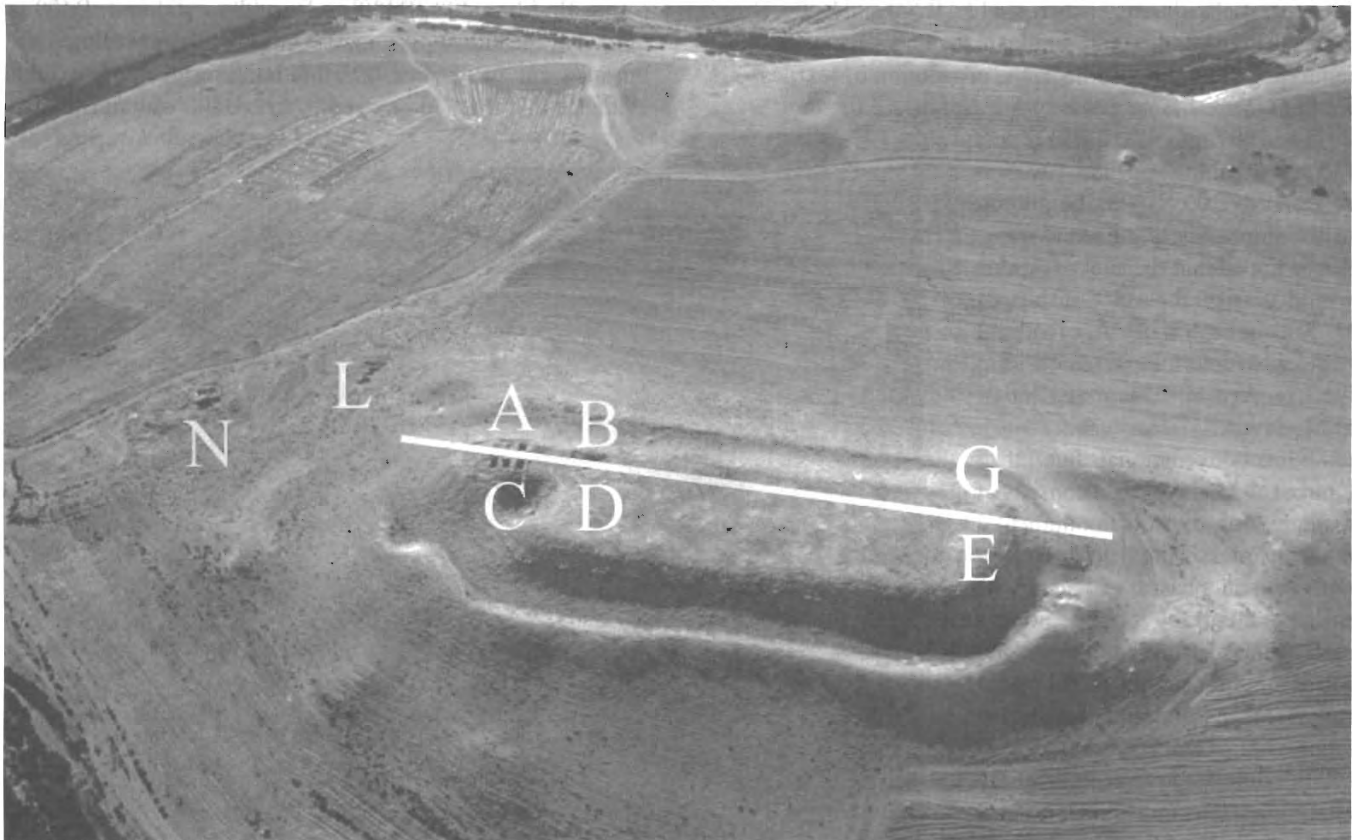


Vol. 19.2—Winter 2007

Excavations at Khirbat al-Mudayna on the Wadi-ath Thamad, 2007

Annlee E. Dolan

The tenth season of excavation for the Wadi ath-Thamad Project took place from 16 June–5 August 2007, under the direction of P. M. Michèle Daviau. The project is sponsored by Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada, and funded in part by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The team consisted of approximately twenty-two local workers and fifty-nine team members from Canada, the United States, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Austria, Nigeria, and Jordan. In addition to excavating at Khirbat al-Mudayna on the Wadi ath-Thamad, the project also conducted a regional survey, with soundings and documentation at several sites. A summary of the survey efforts will not be presented here, instead this report will focus on the excavation results: the Iron Age town with excavations concentrated in Field B, Field D, and Field E, as well as the excavations that took place in the Nabataean-Early Roman complex in Field N, and the Roman fortress site of az-Zuna.



Aerial view of Khirbat al-Mudayna showing the excavation fields; photo courtesy of D. Kennedy and R. Bewley

Iron Age Excavations at Khirbat al-Mudayna

The Wadi ath-Thamad Project began its investigation of the Iron Age town at Khirbat al-Mudayna in 1996 and excavations were initially focused on the gate complex of Field A. Since this time, our explorations have moved to the interior of the site, and in the 2007 season three fields were excavated within the Iron Age settlement. These include Field B on the east, Field D on the west, and Field E at the south end of the site.

Field B (Supervisor: Michael Weigl)

The 2001–2006 seasons of excavation in Field B exposed a complex of pillared buildings situated to the east of the central roadway leading from the gate. The Field B complex consists of three buildings (B200, B205, and B210) and it was the goal of the 2007 season to delineate these structures better and completely expose the plan of B210.

B210 was constructed against the inner casemate wall (W2002) on its east side and the building was entered from the west. It is oriented east-west and is divided internally by two pillared walls into a tripartite layout. These interior walls consist of a series of basins on stone foundations situated between pillars. *In situ* lintels were resting on top of the northern wall and support a second storey. The second storey collapsed when the building was destroyed by fire. Amongst the collapsed debris, many textile-related objects were found, including loom weights, spindle whorls, and spatulas. An industrial function for the building is likely and is further substantiated by the ceramic repertoire in which typical ‘domestic’ vessels are notably absent. In addition to the textile-related finds, four stone altars were recovered.

Architecturally, B210 is unique, as it does not have a back room parallel to the casemate room like B200 and B205. However, all three buildings are similar in their artefactual remains, indicating their similar role in the production of textiles.

Field D (Supervisor: Christopher Gohm)

The 2007 season in Field D was focused on completing the excavation of Building 300 (B300), beginning in the immediately adjacent areas. It was hoped that these excavations would clarify the relationship of B300 to the central Iron Age road and in doing so determine its role within the Iron Age settlement at Khirbat al-Mudayna.

B300 is exceptional thus far at Khirbat al-Mudayna as it consists of a single long room of monumental masonry measuring 10.7 x 5.2 m, with several phases of use. In its earliest phase B300 contained a large rectangular platform at the west end of the building and a monumental staircase next to the street on the east. Due to the fact that B300 was cleared of its contents before undergoing alterations, it is not known what it was initially used for. The platform was sealed over by a cobble fill layer

that was topped with a well preserved plaster surface. Finds from this later phase suggest that B300 had an industrial or food preparation use, as many hand grinders and other grinding tools were recovered. This is further supported by the artefacts in the roof collapse layers where many grinding implements relating to food preparation were discovered. Like the buildings of Field B, this structure was destroyed by fire.

In the immediate vicinity of B300 the excavations revealed two entirely new buildings, Building 303 (B303) and Building 306 (B306). B303 was situated west of B300 and although the excavation of this building is in its preliminary stage, it appears that B303 was a pillared building, with at least one row of east-west oriented pillars. Finds from this structure also point towards industrial and food processing activities and two identifiable roof collapse layers suggest a two-storied structure with a covered, utilized roof. Most notably two large limestone basins likely used for industrial activities were recovered from this second storey material.

B306 is located to the south and southeast of B300 and shares B300’s southern wall. Like B303, B306 is a pillared building and they share their central wall. Structurally, it consists of at least one east-west oriented pillared wall. The northern half of the building is divided by two large north-south oriented walls. Excavation in this building was limited due to time constraints. However, it was clear that this building had at least two phases of use. Finds from B306 include storage vessels, a boulder mortar, and a female figurine fragment attached to a ceramic vessel.

Field E (Supervisor: Annlee Dolan)

The excavations in Field E were focused on further delineating Building 400 (B400), a large domestic unit. B400 is unique at the site at present, not only for its sprawling plan, but also due to the fact that this building does not exhibit evidence that it was destroyed by fire. B400 was constructed



Field B: pillars and basins; photo by A. E. Dolan

directly against the casemate fortification system at the south end of the site and it is currently estimated that the building measures approximately 17 x 12.5–15 m, becoming narrower on the west as the casemate wall curves north around the site. In 2007, excavation was concentrated to the north and west of the previously excavated areas, and subsequently the north and west outer walls of the building were exposed.

The 2007 season of excavation has made it clear that there are three distinct phases of occupation in B400. In order to form a level building platform, the unevenness in the bedrock was packed with a cobble and pebble fill. The walls of B400 were then constructed either directly on bedrock or on this fill layer. At least fifteen walls can be attributed to the earliest phase of construction, dividing the building into at least sixteen rooms, although the eastern edge of the building has not yet been exposed. Finds from the earliest floor surfaces were scarce, but some Early Iron II and Iron II pottery was recovered.

The second phase of B400 is represented by several major additions or alterations, indicative of a change of function in these areas. In addition to the construction of several new internal walls, ten rooms had evidence of secondary floor surfaces. Pottery recovered from these secondary surfaces date to the Iron II period and finds of domestic and utilitarian objects included many groundstone tools.

Several minor alterations to B400 mark its final phase of occupation. Notable changes include the blocking up of doorways which significantly alter the layout and traffic flow of the building. Pottery from this final phase dates to the Iron II and Late Iron II period.

The irregularity of the plan of B400, along with the finds, suggest that Field E was the domestic area of the site, lacking the grandeur of the public buildings uncovered near the gate complex at the north end of the town.

Nabataean-Roman Excavations

Among the objectives of the Wadi ath-Thamad project is the investigation of other sites within our regional survey area. This season, therefore, excavation took place at two Nabataean-Roman sites. Field N is situated immediately below and to the north of the Iron Age town at Khirbat al-Mudayna, and excavations have been conducted there since 1996. Field N, along with completed Field L, forms part of an extensive Nabataean-Roman settlement running around the north side of Khirbat al-Mudayna and south of the Wadi ath-Thamad. The second site is WT-24 or Az-Zuna, which consists of a Late Roman *castellum*.

Field N (Supervisor: Noor Mulder-Hymans)

The goal of the seventh season of investigation in Field N was to complete the excavation of Building 802, one of two complexes that form a very large Nabataean housing compound (B800 and B802). B802 is the larger of the two complexes, with rooms situated around a large central courtyard. Excavations in 2007 were focused on the outer rooms on the west side of the courtyard. R809 and R810 had been partially exposed in previous seasons, and excavation began in three new rooms (R812, R814, and R817) this season.

R809 is situated in the south-west corner of B802 and measures 2.5 x 7.5 m. The walls of this room were founded

on cobbles and a hard-packed fill, which runs under the floors of the room. A collapsed arch divides the rooms in two, and it is worth noting that the arch stones are considerably smaller than those found in R814 and R817. R810 is situated north of R809 and served as a corridor to R812. R810 measures 2.5 x 4.5 m and opens on the east side to the central courtyard. Similarly, R812 opens on the east to the courtyard and measures 4.3 x 4.5 m. Like the walls and floor of R809, R812 was also founded partially upon cobble stones and partially on a hard-packed fill. R814 is considerably larger than the previous rooms as it measures 4.7 x 8.5 m. It contained three complete piers and the remnants of a fallen pier built of large and well hewn stones. Although the excavations in R817 are preliminary, the room also contains the remains of a fallen arch that bisects the room in the middle. Though finds were limited in the 2007 season, all of the excavated floor surfaces contained Nabataean/Early Roman pottery, as well as a thick piece of blue glass.

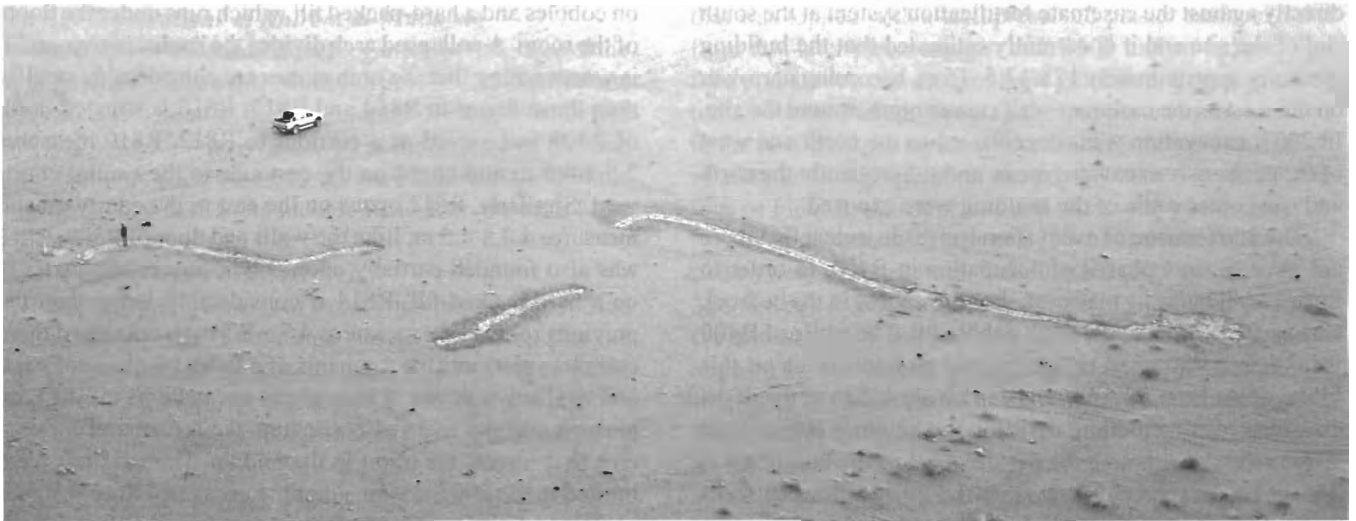
Khirbat az-Zuna (Supervisor: Jonathan Ferguson)

For the past three field seasons (2005–2007), the regional survey of the Wadi ath-Thamad Project has conducted archaeological investigations at the Late Roman to Early Byzantine fortress of Khirbat az-Zuna (WT-24), located 2.72 km east of Khirbat al-Mudayna. Limited excavations occurred in the 2006 season, and it was the goal of the 2007 season to complete the excavation of the north gate tower (Square Z15), as well as to clear a looted tower (Square Z49), and to explore a sample of the fort's interior (Square Z75).

Excavation within the northern gate tower continued down to bedrock in order to understand fully the construction of the *castellum*. A fill layer had been placed above the bedrock in order to level out its surface and act as foundations for the walls. A hoard of coins was placed above the fill before the stone floors of the northern gate tower were laid. In the area west of the gate, excavation exposed a surface, as well as a stone-lined drain that extended westward from the gate. A similar surface also extended into the interior of the fortress as a walkway/roadway. Excavation beneath the ancient surface level west of the gate revealed a Nabataean inscription which was only partially visible in the 2006 season.

The second goal of the 2007 season at az-Zuna was to document the *castellum's* southern interval tower which had been looted and refilled with stones. The clearing of the looted debris exposed the interval tower's southern wall to a height of nearly 2 m, and permitted an examination of the construction techniques used in the fortress.

The final goal of the 2007 season at az-Zuna was to investigate an interior portion of the fortress. Scholars S. T. Parker and D. Kennedy had previously thought that the eastern interval tower was the location of the *castellum's* main gate but this has been disproved by the discovery of the main gate in the 2006 season. Due to great interest in this area of the site, it was chosen for excavation (Square Z75). These excavations revealed a stone platform that had a curb and a stone pavement sealing against it. Twelve coins were found together in a deposit above this stone platform. Roman and Byzantine pottery and glass fragments were recovered from several cultural layers.



Serpentine paved pathways: Feature 2 (left), Feature 6 (center), and Feature 5 (right); photo by G. O. Rollefson.

Enigma Variations: Ritual Structures from Late Prehistory and Early Antiquity in Southern Wadi Ramm

Long known for its fabulous scenery, small Nabataean temple, and its association with the Great Arab Revolt, Wadi Ramm also conceals a more extensive history and prehistory. Little known to the general public are the uses of the region from the Lower Paleolithic to Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age (and later); nevertheless, there are many traces of cultic practices in the area which suggested the name “Holy Valley” to such early investigators as A. S. Kirkbride and G. L. Harding.

In our two-week field season, we mapped 44 structures, although only nine of them were exposed in any detail. The stone alignments and enclosures vary in shape and size, ranging from low walls to circular or oval tumuli, closed rectilinear structures, U-shaped semi-enclosures with one side open, pavements or platforms, and linear “paved pathways.” The U-shaped structures are oriented around the compass, although there is a tendency for the open sides to face either north or south. Some of the tumuli or rectilinear structures are oriented east–west and are likely, in some cases at least, to be Muslim burials, although standing stones at either end are rare here.

In the absence of the opportunity to make any excavations during our short season, it is not surprising that there are many unresolved questions that arose as we were conducting the fieldwork. A major problem was the absence of any directly associated artifacts, so the age of the various structures remains very obscure. Just as elusive as the dating, the functions of the different constructions are enigmatic. Nevertheless, ruminations of these problems can lead to the formulation of some hypotheses that can be examined more rigorously in future seasons.

The long and meandering lines that define Features 2, 5, and 6 are fascinating because they are so different from the other structures in Wadi Ramm (and almost everywhere else, for that matter). They are not walls in the conventional sense of the term: the fact that they are a single course high (and evidently never more than that) indicates they were not physical

barriers to impede access for humans or animals, nor would they have served to control coursing water (F6, for instance, is aligned along the slope axis) or aeolian effects.

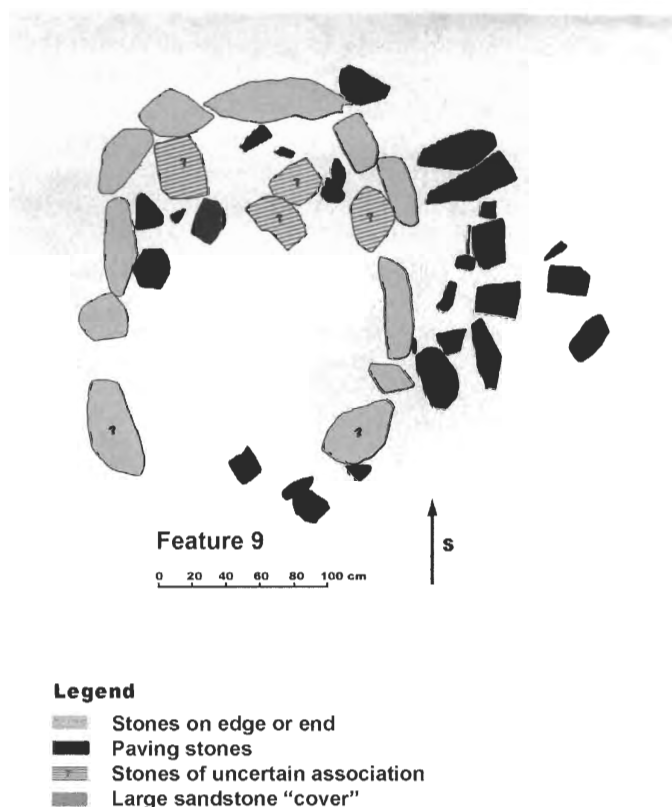
The size of the stones used in these alignments demonstrates that considerable effort and planning were involved in the construction of all three. These are not the simple and expedient arrays seen in some recent temporary camps in the desert. In terms of construction and general arrangement, there are striking parallels between F2, F5, and F6 and the “paved avenue” that S. Bourke found linking Sanctuary A with the



“Altar Arc” in the “Classic Courtyard” phase at Chalcolithic Teleilat Ghassul.

Several visitors to the Trefal-Marrar area during our research commented that the U-shaped structures were possibly *qibla* devices in view of their due-south orientation and simplicity, both aspects that characterize so-called “desert mosques” in many parts of the region. However, the axis of symmetry, while suggestive of an indicator to orient Muslims toward Makkah during their prayers, is not convincing. The “true” *qibla* from Tref al-Marrar is 153°, fully a quarter-quadrant towards the east from the orientation of the U-shapes. While high precision was probably not attainable for pastoralists who had no resort to astrolabes in the early Islamic period, the large number of south-facing U-shaped structures within 50–60 m indicates unnecessary redundancy for *qibla* needs.

The ritual character of Tref al-Marrar is clearly shown by the presence of several large tumuli, and the possibility that the U-shaped structures are tombs cannot be dismissed. The strong relationship of F1, F4, and F9 (and F3, see below) with a back-sighting on the North Star argues for some astronomical relationship in their construction. The presence of a dominating stone in the south wall of all three of these structures may have symbolic meaning, and thus the enclosures are potentially shrines dedicated to some celestially associated deity. Since there are other U-shaped structures at Tref al-Marrar whose orientation is not directly north–south, changes in the structures and their orientation might represent evolution over long periods of time, and/or different tribal groups may have made use of the area from time to time.



Circular Feature 3 (left) and U-shaped Feature 9 (right); drawings by G. O. Rollefson

In terms of its geometry, the circular nature of Feature 3 stands out as a singular construction. Its orientation also maintains a north-south direction. The small compartments inside and outside the structure, which seem to indicate sequential renovations, are curious because of their different sizes and special characteristics. For the moment, we prefer to regard F3 as another ritual structure the specific role of which remains ambiguous.

One aspect of the evidence from Tref al-Marrar that is abundantly apparent is that the poorly documented lifestyles of ancient pastoral groups obscure the richness of their ceremonial lives. The small area that we briefly examined represents less than one half of this sector of Wadi Ramm, which is itself small in comparison to the overall distribution of cultic structures. We intend to continue our investigation into the variability of these structures in 2008.

Gary O. Rollefson and Wesley J. Matlock, Whitman College

Wadi Ramm Cemetery Project

The 2007 season of the Wadi Ramm Cemetery Project served as a follow-up to the 2005 Wadi Ramm cemetery survey. This field season had two primary objectives: 1) find evidence for a cemetery contemporary with the Nabataean/Roman occupation and 2) excavate test trenches to clarify the results of the 2005 ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey. In 2005, GPR was used to identify possible graves and other subsurface features surrounding the site. Seven grids (Blocks A-F) totaling 8300 m² were explored within the environs of the Nabataean temple and bath/villa complexes and the “southern village”. All seven blocks had linear patterning indicative of ancient architecture. Six out of seven blocks also contained more distinct areas of interest possibly indicating graves. Furthermore, two tomb-like features were noted on the surface in Area F.

Eight trenches in Areas A, D, E, and F contained primarily natural deposits that possibly mimicked architectural features in the GPR results. Excavation in Trench D.2 additionally uncovered a portion of a large, presumably ancient wall running ca. 60 m to the east of the ancient structures.

Areas F and G provided the primary evidence of human activity in the areas explored in 2007. Excavation in Trench F.1 uncovered a cist grave containing a single, very poorly preserved adult individual. This person was interred on his/her back, with legs and arms extended, and the skull slightly facing the north. Just to the right and above the head, a small glass bowl was discovered *in situ*, although taphonomic processes had broken it into numerous small fragments. The entire body was apparently covered with leather, upon which some textile impressions could be seen. Eight iron spearpoints were recovered to the right of the pelvic region and upper leg, and they had apparently been hafted on to wooden spears that were not preserved in the burial environment. Further investigation of the spears and glass will provide a date for the burial, although the body orientation suggests a pre-Islamic date.

Trenches F.2, F.3, F.5, and F.7 were laid out to explore

another surface feature resembling a recently disturbed tomb. Excavation of these trenches revealed a large, apparently T-shaped tomb structure that had presumably been built into the alluvial fan, the surface of which has eroded significantly since the tomb was in use. The tomb consists of a square central room with loculi-like structures off to the north, west, and south, all constructed from sandstone ashlar blocks and paving stones. Underneath the central room was a chamber, also primarily constructed from sandstone ashlars, from which most of the human skeletal material was recovered. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) recovered from this tomb is three (one subadults and two adults), although the original number might have been higher before tomb erosion and robbing.

An additional single, primary burial was recovered at the western end of Trenches F.3 and F.5 and in Trench F.6. This individual had been interred on his/her left side in a flexed position within a simple pit grave covered with unworked capstones. The preservation of this adult individual resembled the burial in Trench F.1, with most of the bone replaced with small rootlets. A small bowl constructed of pieces of wood held together with bronze fasteners was discovered immediately above the head.

Investigations in Area G uncovered further remains of the Nabataean-period “southern village” first explored by L. Tholbecq in 1997. Excavation in Trenches G.2 and G.3 revealed a small hearth and a layer of ashy soil containing

many ceramics and faunal remains, likely contemporary with occupation of the nearby Nabataean structures. Trenches G.1 and G.8 uncovered a ca. 70 cm wide wall with few associated artifacts and no constructed floor. Trenches G.6 and G.7 were placed within two likely Nabataean-period structures located in the northwestern corner of the area. These trenches uncovered rooms within the structures with earthen floors and in Trench G.6, a small food preparation area. Only one occupational period was documented in these structures.

The 2007 season of the Wadi Ramm Cemetery Project thus discovered evidence of a pre-Islamic, likely Nabataean or Roman, cemetery to the south of the temple area and to the northwest of the “southern village.” More tombs should be discovered in this area. Numerous local informants furthermore remarked that communal tombs similar to the one in Area F had been uncovered during construction of the main modern village road and new cemetery. Therefore many cemeteries, including the one in Area F, were utilized during Nabataean and Roman occupation of the site. The date of the southern village explored by Tholbecq also was confirmed through further excavation this season. Finally, this investigation discovered that GPR results at Ramm and other geologically similar areas should be interpreted cautiously, for linearly-aligned fluvial deposits can often mimic an architectural feature, such as a wall.

Megan A. Perry, East Carolina University



Large communal tomb within Area F; photo provided by M. A. Perry

Excavations at Khirbet Iskander, 2007



Khirbet Iskander, Square B19A: View of the two monoliths found in a Phase A (EB IV) multi-roomed structure in Area B; both photos by R. Rama

The seventh season of full-scale excavations took place at Khirbet Iskander from 1 June–8 July 2007. In this season most of the work concentrated on earlier, urban occupational levels, in particular at the west end of Area B at the northwest corner of the mound. Specifically, the objectives of this season were to (1) expose complete architectural units of the Phase C (EB III) settlement in Area B, (2) investigate the western perimeter wall (Phase C), (3) understand the earlier (Phase D) curvilinear structure below the perimeter wall, (4) continue the 2004 probe in Area C8 to **investigate pre-EB IV phasing**, and (5) finish the survey and excavation of cultic installations in the vicinity of the site.

As of 2004, the Phase C settlement in Area B consisted of a series of structures found abutting the fortifications (B7-B1-B2) and one room south of B2 (B5). Below a massive amount of destruction debris, the team had discovered a central room with pillar base (B1), a wall line with a well-preserved doorway (B2), and a workroom/storeroom in B5 with a large number of ground stone artifacts. B5 also included an enigmatic mudbrick bench/installation, **and a loop-handled storejar set on a large paver**. This season's focus was to excavate three substantial balks in order to link all these structures and trace the settlement southward.

In the B2/B5 balk, segments of EB IV Phase A/B walls were uncovered, along with a pillar used in both phases. As elsewhere in the field, the destruction debris of the Phase B level included several whole vessels. Immediately below, as elsewhere, lay the destruction layer that brought the final Phase C (EB III) settlement to an end. Unexpectedly, the B2 (doorway) wall did not continue the north-south line, but abutted the northern wall of the B5 structure. Thus, there are two rooms within B1/B5, rather than the one large room that had been expected.

Removal of the contiguous B1/B6 balk to the east revealed EB IV surfaces, much destruction material, and, surprisingly, no southern wall to the B1 central room. Rather, the northern line of the B5 structure continued for approximately 1.5 m eastward where it ended in a collapsed state. What was found

instead, in B6, was an unusual stone-hewn bin, built on a surface linked with the B1 central room. We will explore the dimensions of the B1/B6 room further next season.

In order to understand the enigmatic mudbrick installation and to find the eastern wall of the B5 room, we excavated the B6/B5 balk. Below the EB IV wall lines and surfaces, we discovered what appeared to be the partially preserved remains of the eastern wall of the B5 room. Investigation of the mudbrick installation was complicated by its poor preservation; however, **to the south another small pavement came** to light. Finally, below the destruction debris in a small room (B7) sharing a wall with B1, excavation revealed a well-preserved posthole in the center of the Phase C room. We will also return to investigate further the Area C settlement next season.

A new square, B19, was opened to investigate an additional stretch of the Phase C western perimeter wall that abuts the tower in B2 and has been traced southward in B2A/B5A. Exposure of more of the well-preserved B19 (Phase A) structure discovered last season showed that it extends to and abuts the western perimeter wall. This multi-roomed structure has five doorways and is over 12 m long. In one room of the building two standing monoliths were discovered. Work at the west end revealed Phase B walls and whole vessels within the destruction matrix. It appears that the Phase B wall is a reuse of a Phase C wall that abuts the western perimeter line.

The construction technique of the western perimeter (Phase C) wall is now clearly revealed in three squares (B2A, B5A, B19A). The fortifications are built in horizontal segments between more



Khirbet Iskander, Square B9: a unique 3.5 cm wide, miniature four-spouted ceramic lamp found in the debris of an illicit trench dug between seasons

deeply founded vertical interstices/transverse walls (presumably anti-earthquake devices), which is the same construction technique as found on the northern perimeter defenses.

Further work along its northern face revealed more of the enigmatic (Phase D) curvilinear structure upon which the Phase C fortification wall rests. This structure was traced eastward into B2 where it appears to continue under the Phase C “doorway” wall. In B2A, it is associated with a stone pier jutting out to the west. To the north, a portion of a similar curvilinear wall began to appear. Given the overburden of mudbrick debris, it is still not clear what this structure is or its relationship to a stone and mudbrick wall that came to light in B5A.

Finally, the Area C8 probe revealed multiple wall lines. The additional pottery will help determine if Phase I is EB III or, as earlier believed, a transitional EB III/IV phase. Unfortunately, the three “circle-of-stone” features in Area E, east of the site, were bulldozed before excavation began. However, salvage work on one installation provided ceramic information dating it to EB IV. Further work on M1, the “high place” found in 2004 on the ridge behind the site, uncovered human and animal bone remains.

Suzanne Richard, Gannon University,

Jesse C. Long, Jr., Lubbock Christian University,

Bill Libby, McMurry University

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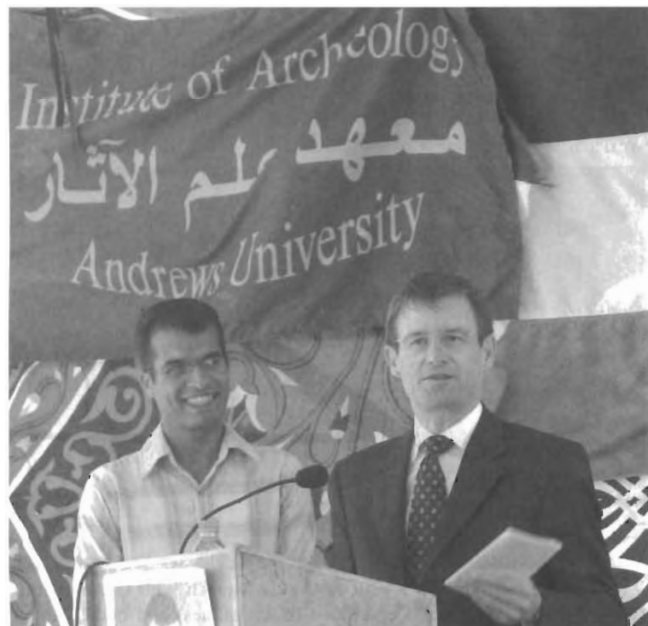
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MPP-Tall Hisban, 2007 Season

Andrews University celebrated forty years of fieldwork at Tall Hisban (Madaba Plains Project: MPP) this season with a bilingual public ceremony held at the site on 5 July and attended by representatives from the Jordanian royal family and government, foreign embassies, ACOR affiliates, and excavation teams. This summer's excavation, the fourth of Phase II operations, took place from 18 June–18 July and was designed to understand better the history of the fortifications and village occupation, particularly during the Islamic eras. The specific goals of this season were to confirm the date of original construction of the bathhouse and better understand its physical and functional relationship with other complexes on the summit (Field Q), to document the development of the citadel's fortifications (Fields Q and M), to trace more fully the history of occupation in the medieval and early modern villages (Fields C and O), and to clarify the occupational history of the Roman period (all fields). In order to address these research concerns, seventeen squares based on 5 x 5m units in four different fields were excavated.

The 2007 team included eighty staff, faculty, volunteers, and students from Andrews and Grand Valley State universities and Calvin College, in addition to workmen from the local village. Our Field Supervisors this season were Benjamin Dolinka (Albright Institute – Field C), Jason Shilling (Field O), Aren LaBianca (Andrews University – Field M), and Darrell Rohl (Andrews University – Field Q). We were happy to have Sabah Abu Hudeib return this season as our representative from the Jordanian Department of Antiquities and we thank the Department of Antiquities, ACOR, and the Directorate of Hisban for their continued support of our project. Ongoing reports can be found on the project website: www.hesban.org.

Bethany J. Walker, Grand Valley State University and Øystein S. LaBianca, Andrews University



H.E. David Hale, U.S. Ambassador to Jordan, addressing the guests at Hisban's 40th celebration, with Anas Al-Awawdeh translating; photo by B. A. Porter

Harold Forshey Retires from ACOR Board

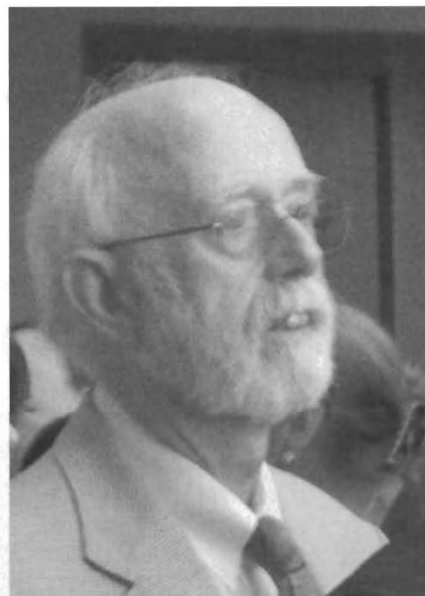


Photo by B. de Vries

Professor Harold Forshey recently retired from the ACOR Board of Trustees after many years of distinguished service. Professor Forshey received his Th.D. from Harvard University in 1973. He was by then already a member of the faculty of the Department of Religion at Miami University, Ohio, where he taught for the forty years starting in 1966 until his retirement in 2005.

At Miami he offered a wide variety of courses and held a number of prestigious academic positions, including two extended terms as Chair of the Department of Religion and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (1991–1994). He was also a Visiting Fellow at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1982–1983.

He published many learned journal articles on Biblical studies and archaeology in a wide array of both scholarly and popular journals. He was an especially productive and perceptive book reviewer, with more than seventy-five reviews in many different journals. His archaeological fieldwork included several seasons as a field supervisor at Tell Halif in Israel between 1976 and 1987 and in Jordan at Tell Safut (1985).

After an initial term as a trustee of the ACOR board in 1984–1987, he served continuously on the board from 1993 until his retirement this year. For many years he was a member of the ACOR Subcommittee on Named Fellowships. Another important role was his service as Chair of the ACOR Library Committee. His dedication to the library is demonstrated by the generous donation of much of his personal library.

We all greatly appreciate Harold's soft-spoken demeanor as well as his collegiality, warmth, and many years of dedicated service to ACOR. We wish him well in his retirement in Arizona.

S. Thomas Parker

Second Vice-President, ACOR Board of Trustees



ACOR Fellows: Gary Rollefson, Yorke Rowan, Stephanie Pryor, Bulent Arikan, Andrea Shelton, Micaela Sinibaldi

Fellows in Residence (July–December 2007)

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow:

Gary O. Rollefson, Whitman College; Analysis, Synthesis, and Write-up of the Stratigraphy of 'Ain Ghazal, Jordan
Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) Multi-Country Fellow:

Warren C. Schultz, DePaul University; Re-Imaging Mamluk Money

ACOR-CAORC Post-Doctoral Fellows:

Yorke M. Rowan, Yarmouk University; Religion, Ritual and Early Sedentary Societies: The Revolution of Symbols in the Chalcolithic Period of the Southern Levant

ACOR-CAORC Fellows:

Andrea Shelton, North Carolina State University; The Integration

of el-Lejjun into the Regional and International Economy of the Late Roman Empire as Evidenced by Red Ware Ceramics
Stephanie Pryor, University of Missouri, Columbia; *Personae Feminae: Representing Female Rulership in Arabia and Syria-Palestine (4th Century BCE–3rd Century CE)*

Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellow

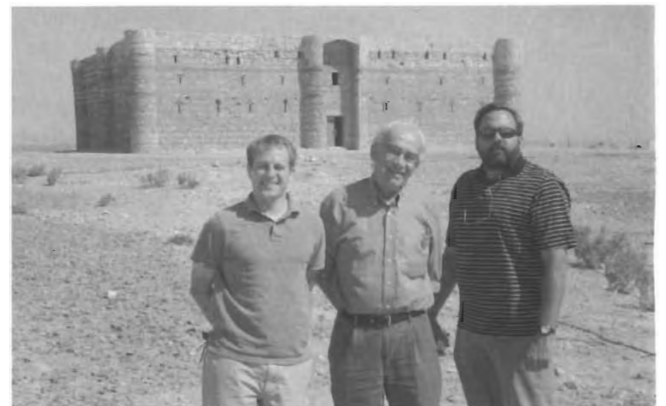
Bulent Arikan, Arizona State University; The Bronze Age Settlement Systems of the Wadi El-Hasa (Jordan) in Relation to Palaeoenvironment and Social Organization

Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellow & Bert and Sally de Vries Fellow:

Micaela Sinibaldi, University of Florence; The Betdha “Medieval” Pottery Assemblage in the Context of the Ceramic Studies of Transjordan



2007 NEH Fellow Gary Rollefson with Russell Wyland (NEH Assistant Director of Research Programs) and Andrea Berlin (Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of Archaeology, Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies, University of Minnesota) at ACOR during the November 2007 NEH site visit



Warren Schultz (right) on a visit to Qasr Khirwanah with Ghazi Bisheh (former Director General, Department of Antiquities) and Eddie Dutton (former CAORC Program Assistant)



Participants in the 2007 ECA-CAORC-ACOR Critical Language Scholarships Program (in Arabic), in alphabetical order: Dennis Ardis, Melodee Baines, Amanda Barrett, Flannery Becker, Gail Buttorff, Mary Carroll, Charles (Trey) Causey, Emma Chubb, Michael Diamond, Kaitlin Dougherty, Guy Evans, Alaina Farabaugh, Uriah Ferruccio, Adam Gallagher, Tara Good, David Grant, Rachel Kaplan, Joseph Kim, Joshua Leight, Max Librach, Charles Loi, Sara Lowes, Miranda Moore, Neil Padukone, Nicholas Reves, Daniel Schriever, Amanpreet Sidhu, Joel Suarez, Christine Tsang, and Nazneen Uddin; Anne Mariel Peters (Program Coordinator) standing lower right

Donors to ACOR (July–December 2007)

General Donations to the Annual Fund were made by: Anonymous; Nancy Aronson; Bob and Mette Beecroft; Martha Boling-Risser and Robert James Risser in memory of Robert G. and Jean G. Boling; Nirmal and Ellen Chatterjee; Nancy Coinman; R. H. Deffenbaugh, Jr. and Miriam Boraas Deffenbaugh for the Roger S. Boraas ACOR Library Fund; David Dodge; Virginia and Wesley Egan; Ruth G. Farnham; Morton and Ann Fisher; Larry and Gillian Geraty; Victor R. Gold; Ann H. Gordon; William W. Hallo; Prudence O. Harper; Ray and Walter Hemphill; Philip and Ann Howlett; Walter and Kathy Jamieson in memory of Dwight J. Porter; Dale Burchard Kenney and Gene Kenney; Sara M. Knight; Michael and Nora Jean Levin in honor of Martha Sharp Joukowsky; James and Judith Lipman; Joan Porter MacIver and David MacIver; Anne Morgan and Brent Mashburn; Don and Jeanette Nadler; Jean Peyrat; Thomas and Alice Pickering; Dwight and Chris Porter; Suzanne L. Richard; Keith N. Schoville; The Selz Foundation, Inc.; Marilyn and Tom Schaub; Cynthia L. Shartzter; Sally Strazdins; Joe W. Thorn; Andrew G. Vaughn; Terry Waltz; Charles K. Williams II; James and Lucy Wiseman

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James A. Sauer Fellowship Endowment: Larry and Gillian Geraty; Sy Gitin; Rami G. Khouri; George and Carol Landes; Nancy Lapp; S. Thomas Parker; Thomas and Alice Pickering

Donations of Books and Journals were made by: Myriam Ababsa; American Research Institute in Turkey; Leigh-Ann Bedal; Mutasim Bilbeisi; Ghazi Bisheh; José Mariá Blázquez-Martínez; Eliot Braun; Rami Daher; Department of Antiquities of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Lynn Swartz Dodd; Zbigniew T. Fiema; Andreas Hauptmann; Institut Français du Proche-Orient; Randa Kakish; John R. Lee; Kenneth Lönnqvist; The Middle Eastern Culture Center in Japan; Stefanie E. Nanes; Leonora Navari; Barbara A. Porter; Benjamin W. Porter; Gary O. Rollefson; Robert Schick; Denise Schmandt-Besserat; Warren C. Schultz; Alan H. Simmons; Andrew M. Smith II; Società Speleologica; Nancy A. Talese; Tel Aviv University; The S. Daniel Abraham Center for International and Regional Studies; Tufts University; The Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies; Christopher A. Tuttle; Guido Vannini

Publications

The Petra Papyri I, edited by J. Frösén, A. Arjava, and M. Lehtinen (2002). This first volume begins with the historical and archaeological context of the papyri; conservation; an outline of the dating systems; and a study of the family of the main character in the texts. The texts are documentary and written in Byzantine Greek. Sixteen documents with introductions, Greek transcript with critical apparatus, English translation, and commentary are presented. This large format (33 x 25 cm), cloth-bound volume has 161 pages and 26 plates. \$80.

The Petra Papyri III, edited by A. Arjava, M. Buchholz, and T. Gagos (2007). With contributions by R. C. Caldwell, R. W. Daniel, L. Koenen, M. Lehtinen, M. Mikkola, M. Mustonen, T. Purola, E. Salmenkivi, M. Vesterinen, and M. Vierros. Plates prepared by T. Szymanski and V. Vahtikari. This volume presents 19 documents. This large format (33 x 25 cm), cloth-bound volume has 236 pages and 87 plates. \$100.

The Petra Church, by Z. T. Fiema, C. Kanellopoulos, T. Waliszewski, and R. Schick (2001). The volume contains reports on all aspects of the ACOR project that excavated what was probably the cathedral of Petra. This large format (33 x 25 cm), cloth-bound volume has 463 pages and over 700 illustrations including 36 in full color. \$150.

The Mosaics of Jordan, by Michele Piccirillo (1992). A large format, cloth-bound volume with 383 pages, 874 illustrations, plans, and aerial photographs. Third printing (2008). \$175.

The Great Temple of Amman: The Architecture, by Chrysanthos Kanellopoulos (1994). The architecture of the temple that was excavated and partially restored by ACOR. Large format, cloth-bound with 135 pages and 13 plates. \$80.

The Great Temple of Amman: The Excavations, by Anthi Koutsoukou, Kenneth W. Russell, Mohammad Najjar, and Ahmed Momani (1997). Description of the 1990-93 excavations. This hard-bound volume has 191 pages and 3 fold-out plates. \$65.

Madaba: Cultural Heritage, edited by Patricia M. Bikai and Thomas A. Dailey (1996). Catalogue of the remains from the Early Bronze Age through late Ottoman vernacular houses. Paperbound with 111 pages and over 150 illustrations and a large separate map. An Arabic translation is available upon request at no additional cost. \$35.

Ancient Ammonites & Modern Arabs: 5000 Years in the Madaba Plains of Jordan, edited by Gloria A. London and Douglas R. Clark (1997). Life across the centuries in the area excavated by the Madaba Plains Project. Hard-bound with 76 pages and 74 figures. \$27.

The 150th Anniversary of the United States' Expedition to Explore the Dead Sea and the River Jordan, by Robert E. Rook (1998). An assessment of the Lynch expedition of 1848. Hard-bound volume of 31 pages. Many reproductions of Lynch's illustrations, including his three maps. \$20.

Madaba Map Centenary 1897-1997, with assistance from ACOR (Jerusalem, 1999). Proceedings of a conference on the Byzantine mosaic map. This well illustrated hard-bound volume has 278 pages. \$125.

All prices include shipping.

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November 2007 Board Meeting

The ACOR Board of Trustees annual fall meeting was held on 17 November 2007 in San Diego, California. Harold Forshey (class of 2008) tendered his resignation and was unanimously elected to be a Trustee Emeritus. Timothy Harrison, President Elect of the ASOR Board of Trustees, participated in the meeting. Plans for ACOR's 40th anniversary celebrations in Amman in June 2008 were discussed.

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Trustee Emeritae: Dr. Harold Forshey; Dr. Nancy Lapp and Mrs. Judy Zimmerman

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