Roger Boraas Dies

On December 3, 2014, Roger S. Boraas, former chief archaeologist of the Andrews University Heshbon Expedition, died. He was 88 years old.

Roger S. Boraas was born on February 4, 1926. He grew up on a small farm in Scandia, MN where he attended a one-room school, with his mother as a teacher. After graduating from Forest Lake High School, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and later earned his BA from Gustavus Adolphus College, in St. Peter, MN. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Augustana Theological Seminary in Rock Island, IL and was ordained as a Lutheran pastor in 1952. He served the Emanuel Lutheran Church, in Pleasantville, NY, and the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, in Cleveland Heights, OH. In 1958 he was called to Upsala College in East Orange, NJ, first as a Chaplain and later as Professor of Religion until his retirement in 1991. He completed his doctoral studies in Old Testament studies and Archaeology at Drew University in Madison, NJ.

While at Drew, Boraas became a student of Lawrence Toombs, who learned the Wheeler-Kenyon method of excavation, under Kenyon’s tutelage, at Jericho. When colleague Siegfried Horn, from their days together on the Shechem excavation, asked him to be his chief archaeologist at Tall Hisban, Roger instructed the workers in excavation methodology and field techniques, ensuring that proper procedures and scientific methods were carried out. He did so, working first with Horn, as Director, in 1968, 1971 and 1973, and then with Lawrence Geraty, in 1974 and 1976.

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Later, he also worked with Suzanne Richard, at Khirbet Iskander, first as Field Director, in the 1982 Season, and then as Associate Director, in the 1984 Season. Altogether, Roger worked on 13 archaeological expeditions in Jordan, in conjunction with the American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman, also serving on the first Amman Center Committee, after the founding of the Center. Roger was a recipient of the P. E. MacAllister Field Archaeology Award of the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), in 2005. His extensive scholarly work also included serving as associate editor of the Harpers Bible Dictionary, and the Word and Witness program of the former Lutheran Church in America.

Roger married Aina Evodia Anderson on June 22, 1948. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, enjoying music, gardening, camping, model trains, and reading. Roger and Aina have three children: Miriam (Ralston) Deffenbaugh, Marcia Boraas (Eugene Lugano), and Roger Boraas, Jr., and several grandchildren: Natalie and Carl; Elisabeth and Daniel; and Marisa and Liana; along with numerous nieces and nephews. (Miriam Deffenbaugh and Paul J. Ray, Jr.)

ASOR 2014

The 2014 annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research was held in San Diego, CA from Nov. 19-22. This year’s meeting was one of the best attended, with 96 available sessions, and 447 different papers being read. The plenary session was given by Jason Ur of Harvard University on “The Renaissance of Archaeology in Iraq and Its Kurdistan Region.” In connection with the meetings, a reception was held at the University of California San Diego, featuring Technology and Cyber Archaeology. As usual, the Near East Archaeological Society annual meeting was held concurrently (Nov. 19-21), and the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature immediately after (Nov. 22-26).

A number of Madaba Plains Project members and affiliates participated in various aspects of the meeting venue as in the past. Those who chaired sessions this year included: Michael Hasel and Martin Klingbeil, with Yosef Garfinkel (Tracking the Early Judean Kingdom: From Khirbet Qeiyafa to Lachish I); Constance Gane (Archaeology of Mesopotamia); Øystein LaBianca (Archaeologists Engaging Global Challenges); and Bethany Walker and Bert de Vries (Archaeology of Islamic Society). In addition, Lawrence Geraty presided over the Madaba Plains Project Staff Consultation; Øystein LaBianca over the Committee of Archaeological Policy; Randall Yonker (with Susan Ackerman) over the Members Meeting; Bethany Walker over the Consultation of Dig Directors in Jordan (with special guests Mohammad Najjar and Monther Jamhawi of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan); Randall Yonker of the Membership and Outreach Committee; and Douglas Clark over the Madaba Plains Project-“Umayri Workshop.

Individual submissions were made by: Bert de Vries (Preservation and Community Engagement at Umm el-Jimal in 2014); Helen Dixon (Exploring the Social Roles of Levantine Phoenician Women); Michael Hasel (the Fourth Expedition to Lachish: History and Overview); Martin Klingbeil (The Level II Destruction of Nebuchadnezzar: Area A Excavations at Lachish); Maria Elena Ronza (Social Engagement in Archaeology: The Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resources Management Initiative); Gerald Klingbeil (Between Innovative and Traditionalizing Forces: Material Culture, Khirbet Qeiyafa, and Libations in the Biblical World); Douglas Clark, Kent Bramlett, and Jehad Haroun (The 2014 Excavations of the Madaba Plains Project at Tall al-‘Umayri, Jordan); S. Thomas Parker (The 2014 Season of the Petra North Ridge Church Project); Larry Herr (The Edomite Highland Pottery from the Last Three Burton MacDonald Surveys);

**Dr. Monther Jamhawi, Director of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.**

Monique Vincent, Douglas Clark and Matthew Vincent (Bringing Color to the Blind: A Scientist’s Perspective on Measuring the Color of Objects); Chang-Ho Ji (All Roads Lead to ‘Ataruz: Excavations and Surveys of Khirbat ‘Ataruz and Its Vicinity); Øystein LaBianca (Archaeologists Engaging Global Challenges: The Way Forward); Randall Yonker and Elisabeth Lesnes (The Late Bronze Collapse and the Rise of Iron Age Polities: A Comparative Analysis Between Two Iron Age Sites in Jordan and Sicily); Abelardo Rivas (Egyptian Cultic Influence in Transjordan During the Iron Age as Seen in the Use of Egyptian Elements in the Local Religion); Matthew Vincent with Neil Smith (The UCSD Cyber-Archaeology Data Framework: Unifying Disparate Data); and Matthew Grey with Jodi Magness, Shua Kisilevitz, Benjamin Gordon and Chad Spigel (The 2013 and 2014 Seasons of Excavations at Huqoq in Israel’s Galilee).

The Poster session included entries by: Shellie Berglin and Christopher Chadwick (2014 Excavation Season at San Miceli: Exploring Early Christianity in Rural Roman Sicily); Ivan LaBianca (sUaV Photography Techniques and Archaeological Applications: Lessons Learned from Aerial Surveys at Tall Hisban, Umm
el-Jimal and Petra); and Justin Singleton and Jared Wilson (Mycenaean Tombs in Sicily? The Mt. Raitano Excavations 2014). (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)

Paul Bork Dies

Paul Bork, beloved professor at Pacific Union College, who influenced Institute of Archaeology faculty Randall Younker and Constance Gane to become archaeologists, has passed away.

Paul F. Bork was born Paulo Bork, in Brazil, on Jan 8, 1924, following the immigration of his parents from Germany after WWI. He graduated in 1945 with a major in Business from Brazilian Adventist College, at São Paulo, where he also studied, English, French and Latin, World History and Geography. These subjects helped to prepare him for his move to the US in 1946. There, he first graduated from Pacific Union College, with a BA in Religion, in 1950, followed by a MA in Church History from Potomac University, in Takoma Park, MD, in 1951, where he also met a married Norma Koester. Between 1953-1959 he was a pastor in the New England states before returning to his studies, this time at Andrews University, where he received an MDiv in 1960. He then went on to teach Bible and German at Loma Linda Academy from 1960-1969, while working on his PhD, which he earned at the California Graduate School of Theology in 1971. Bork also took class work in Biblical Archaeology at the Pacific School of Religion, at the University of California, Berkeley, London University, and Hebrew University, in Jerusalem.

In 1970, he began teaching at Pacific Union College, serving on the Department of Religion faculty, and for the last two years (1987-1989) of his academic career, as chair of the Department. During that time he participated on archaeological excavations, first at Gezer, from 1971-1973, with William Dever; and later in the 1970s and early 1980s at Jerusalem, first with Magen Broshi (working on the walls of various periods) and then with Yigal Shiloh (at the City of David Excavations). He also had the opportunity to make a trip to Yemen, for the purpose of visiting Sabean ruins, at Marib. Throughout his teaching career, he took students on tours to Egypt and Israel practically every summer, also starting an extension school in Jerusalem, later taken over by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists for use in connection with archaeological and biblical studies. He also visited or conducted studies in the countries of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Greece, and Italy, with side interests in the Mayan civilization, in Mexico and Guatemala. Over the years, Dr. Bork wrote numerous scholarly articles and two popular books: Out of the City, Across the Sands: Retracing Abraham’s Steps from Ur to Canaan, and The World of Moses (in English and Portuguese).

After retirement, Dr. Bork continued to travel extensively, also teaching and giving seminars on archaeology and Old Testament topics. The Borks moved to Loma Linda in 1998. Already in 1995, Bork donated numerous archaeological volumes, artifacts and photographic slides from his personal collection to his alma mater, in Brazil, where the Paulo Bork Biblical Archaeology Museum has since been established. It is the only known biblical archaeological museum in the country of Brazil, now with over 300 artifacts and pictures on display. In December 2010, Dr. Bork attended dedication ceremonies there in his honor.

Paul Bork died on Jan. 24, 2015, following a fall at his home. He was 91 years old. He is survived by his wife Norma, their sons Terry and Paul, and grandchildren Katherine and Paul Francis Maxwell. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)

Interested in Learning About New Archaeological Discoveries?

The Horn Archaeological Museum is offering all of the readers of its Newsletter a free membership to the Friends of ASOR which includes The Ancient Near East Today: Current News About the Ancient Past, a monthly e-newsletter that publishes discoveries and insights on archaeology.

In order to obtain this valuable resource please send your email address to: hornmuseum@andrews.edu
**Last Supper Papyrus:**
A fragment of a 1,500-year-old Greek papyrus was recently spotted in the library of the John Rylands Research Institute at the University of Manchester, in England, and may be one of the oldest Christian amulets. The fragment probably originated in an Egyptian town, and was seemingly worn folded up inside a locket or pendant as some kind of protective charm. The text is a mixture of passages from Ps 78:23-24 and Matt 26:28-30, among others, referring to the both the last supper and “manna from Heaven.”

**Buried Greek City Found?**
The ruins of collapsed buildings, workshops and a pottery kiln, have been recently been located off the coast of the Greek Island of Delos. The ruins that sank to the bottom of the Aegean Sea, originally thought to be a harbor, are now being reinterpreted as a more extensive settlement.

**Head of Goddess Found:**
Excavators looking for additional tesserae of a large (150 m; 1600 sq. ft.) mosaic exhibiting geometric designs, adorning a plaza floor, outside a Roman bath, at the site of Antiochia ad Cragum (Antioch on the cliffs), in Turkey, have found the head of a marble statue of Aphrodite, lying face-down. Traces of lime kilns have also been found in the area, suggesting that the statue, and others like it, were being burned to be reused in concrete. Parts of another mosaic and niches nearby suggest the presence of a Temple.

**Cult Statue Found:**
Excavators at the site of Tel Rechesh, in Israel, have found the remains of a Canaanite cultic statue, while working in the ruins of a Second Temple-period farmhouse. The statue is similar to those located in temples, such as at Hazor, and was found in secondary reuse, as part of the doorframe in one of the rooms on the top floor of the farmhouse. From the period when the farmhouse was in use oil lamps and coins, minted at the city of Tiberias, were found.

**New Mesopotamian Flood Tablet Located:**
A cuneiform tablet, dating to ca. 1750 BC, has recently came into the possession of the British Museum, which describes the building of a large circular coracle in preparation for the Great Flood.

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