Madaba Museum Database Project

In March 2005, Institute of Archaeology director Randall Younker and Horn Archaeology Museum Curator David Merling traveled to Madaba, Jordan, where they met with the curator of the Madaba Archaeological Museum, Ms. Reem Shoqour, to create a database system for the artifacts of the Madaba Museum. Drs. Younker and Merling worked with Ms. Shoqour for a week, teaching her how to set up the database on the museum computer, and how to enter data, including digital images, of each of the nearly 8,000 artifacts in the Madaba Museum. Having information and digital images of all of the objects in the Museum will be of great interest and help to researchers who work in the Madaba region and whose objects from their respective excavations are kept there. During their time in Madaba, Younker and Merling were able to rephotograph the Jalul objects from previous seasons with a digital camera and enter the images, along with the relevant find and descriptive data, into the Madaba Archaeological Museum computer.

After they returned to the US, Ms. Shoqour continued to enter all the artifacts into the database system. She initially entered all information in Arabic, completing that project in just a few weeks. She then began the process of entering the data in English, as well. Unfortunately, she was unable to complete that part of the project due to her acceptance into graduate school in Brussels, Belgium. Nevertheless, she turned all of her work in both Arabic and English over to the Institute of Archaeology, where we hope to complete the English portion of the project. Eventually, we hope that this database will be available to all scholars working at the Madaba Archaeology Museum. The Institute of Archaeology wishes to thank the Office of Scholarly Research at Andrews University for providing funds in support of this project. (Randall W. Younker)
Administrative Wing Finished

In April of 2005 the administrative wing of the Institute of Archaeology and the Horn Archaeological Museum was basically completed. As reported earlier (24.4 [2003]:1) plans for the new institute/museum were placed on a phased remodeling program including: 1) a classroom and research centers wing; 2) the administrative offices and library facilities; and finally 3) the façade of the building and a state-of-the-art exhibit. The first of these phases was completed in the spring of 2003 (cf. 25.2 [2004]:2); the second phase, with the exception of one office, has recently been completed, with the third phase in the early planning and funding stages. Work on the third of the four wings of the building, housing the artifacts, archives, ceramics laboratories and room for visiting scholars and Ph.D students to study, has also been just about completed in the process of finishing these first two phases.

The new administrative wing includes offices for the Institute director, the Museum curator, a Staff Archaeologist, the Publications department, the secretary, and the assistant to the curator. There are also rooms holding the Research Library, journals, maps and special collections, a work room/lunch room, and a storage room, in addition to the lobby. The wing has been decorated with an Ottoman period theme displaying such items as maps and artifacts from that time.

Since it will still be some time before the Institute/Museum reaches completion, the staff is now in the process of designing a temporary exhibit for the interim period before the final phase of renovations begin. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)

Photo Essay

Lobby of the Institute of Archaeology.

Wall decorations in hallway of new Administrative wing.

Office of Institute Director.

Office of Museum Curator.
BE OUR PARTNER

As the Museum moves into its final phase of renovations please consider a generous donation to bring things to completion.

Benefactor $1000  Patron $500  Sponsor $100
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Just clip this form and send it to:

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Please make checks payable to: Horn Archaeological Museum.

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**RANDOM SURVEY**

**Remake of an Ancient Lyre That Was Found at Ur**

The staff at the University of Liverpool has made a replica of a 5,000-year-old lyre (harp) that was originally found in Iraq. After a group of volunteers replicated the instrument, the university staff used the latest laser technology to engrave designs onto the mother-of-pearl lyre. The original instrument was found by archaeologist Sir Leonard Woolley during his 1929 excavations at a Sumerian cemetery of Ur, which dates to ca. 2,600 B.C.

**New Scroll Fragments Discovered**

Hanan Eshel, of Bar Ilan University, recently bought two small fragments from Bedouins near ‘Ein Gedi that contained a section from the book of Leviticus. Eshel plans to continue investigating the Judean Desert with hopes to find more scroll fragments.

**To discover more about archaeology, the Institute, and the Museum, contact us at:**

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**New Way to Read Ancient Texts**

Cornell University has developed a new way to read ancient texts. By using X-ray fluorescence technology, scientists can “zap and map” 2,000-year-old texts. This enables them to clearly read words otherwise almost too difficult to see. The research was done by the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source (CHESS).

**Recent Finds from Tiberias**

Joint excavations from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), and Brown University have recently taken place at Tiberias, which is located just off the coast of the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel. The archaeologists have worked primarily on the site’s basilica, which housed the Sanhedrin. Finds include a first-century AD marble floor, coins, jewelry and frescoes, as well as other architectural finds.

**Sarcophagus Retrieved in Egypt**

The Cairo University Faculty of Archaeology has retrieved a sarcophagus that dates to the time of Ramses II (1279-1213 B.C.). It was originally discovered during the 1980s in the Saqqara area.