



# NEWSLETTER

## The Institute of ARCHAEOLOGY Siegfried H. Horn Museum



### ASOR 2022

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For the second year in a row the *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR)* had separate virtual online and in-person components. The virtual component was held between October 19-23, featuring 65 sessions with more than 300 prerecorded paper presentations and online discussion time with the presenters. The in-person session, which will be reported on here, was held in Boston between Nov 16-19, at which 506 papers were presented in 105 sessions, along with 31 posters and the usual business consultations, rounded out by a reception for ASOR members at the *Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East (HMANE)*. The plenary address this year was presented by Solange Ashby of the University of California, Los Angeles entitled “Women of the Sacred South: Nubian Women in the Temple and Upon the Throne.”

Papers presented this year by Madaba Plains Project (MPP) members and affiliates include: Children in the First Millennium BCE Levantine Phoenician Mortuary Record (Helen Dixon); Minoan “Warrior Graves”: Military Identity, Cultural Interactions, and the Art of Personal Adornment (Josephine Verduci); The Nabataean New Year Festival (David Graf); The Dawn of Ancient Israel and the Dawn of Everything: Opening for an Anarchist Perspective on the Social Order of Ancient Societies of the Southern Levant (Øystein LaBianca); Feeding the Gods: Ritual Analysis of Food Offerings during the Neo-Babylonian Empire (Michael Orellana); An Ivory Comb with Alphabetic Inscription from Lachish (Madeleine Mumcuoglu and Michael Hasel); Evoking the Elusive 15th-16th Century Horizon: A Newly Discovered Household Assemblage in Context (Bethany Walker); Enduring Traditions, The Collared Pithos in Transjordan (Trisha Broy); Excavating the Iron II Temple Courtyard and Staircase Areas in Ataruz: The 2017-19 and 2022 Fieldwork Seasons (Chang-ho Ji, Aaron Schade, and Choon-ryeol Lee); The 2022 BRAP

(cont'd on p. 2)

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NEWSLETTER

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Robert Bates, Hala Ajilat, Elizabeth Elmswiler, Paul Ray, Trisha Broy and Joseph Broy.



Excavation Season at Khirbat al-Balu'a in Central Jordan (Kent Bramlett; Monique Roddy and Friedbert Ninow); Sacred Time at Home Part I: The Figurines from Tall Jalul Field G (Abelardo Rivas) Umm al-Jimal's Churches in Context: Religion and Society, 300-800 CE (Darrell Rohl); Feasting and Violence in the Early Monarchy: 1 Samuel 20 as Case Study (Sarah Gane Burton); Humans as Ecosystem Engineers: Outlines of a Global History Approach to Narrating Jordan's Past (Øystein LaBianca); and Narrative Themes from Tall al-'Umayri (Douglas Clark).

Project members who chaired sessions and workshops this year include David Graf (Archaeology of Petra and Nabataea); Owen Chesnut and Josh Walton (Archaeology of the Southern Levant: A Festschrift in Honor of Jodi Magness); Timothy Harrison (Large-Scale Data Analysis and the Reconstruction of Human-Environment Interaction in the Ancient Near East), and Douglas Clark, Marta D'Andrea, Basem Mahamid, Andrea Polcaro and Suzanne Richard (Preserving the Cultural Heritage of the Madaba Region of Jordan Workshop).

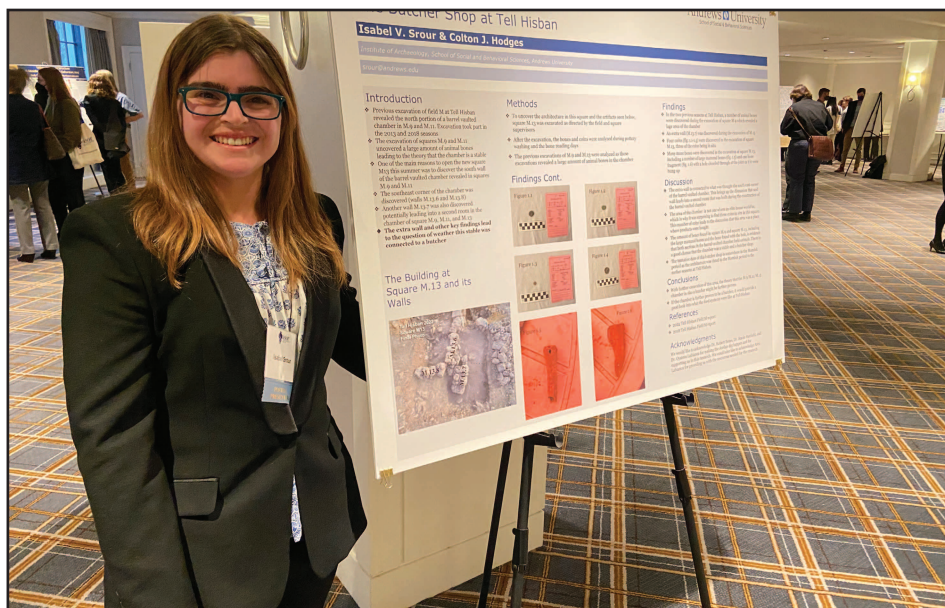
In addition, Andrews University undergraduate students Isabel Srour and Colton Hodges presented a poster entitled "The Butcher Shop and Tell Hisban," and Bethany Walker presided over the Consultation of Dig Directors in Jordan. (Paul J. Ray, Jr)



## MacDonald Dies

Sadly, yet another giant in the archaeology of Jordan has passed on with the recent death of Burton MacDonald on October 20, 2022.

Burton MacDonald was born September 13, 1939, in Témiscamingue, Quebec, Canada. He had a 62-year relationship with St. Francis Xavier University, from which he received a BA, Summa in 1960. To help finance his studies, he worked in the iron ore, uranium, and gold mines in New Brunswick and



Isabel Srour with Hisban Poster.

Ontario during the summer months. He continued his studies at St. Paul's Seminary (University of Ottawa) in September 1960, from which he received a Baccalaureate and a Licentiate in Theology, and a MA in Religious Education. He enrolled as a student in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literature at The Catholic University of America (CUA), Washington, DC in 1967. After two years of graduate studies at CUA, he augmented his doctoral studies at the Ecole Biblique et Archéologique in Jerusalem where he was awarded an *Élève Titulaire* in "Bible and Archaeology," under Roland de Vaux. He received his Ph.D. from CUA in 1974. During his time there, he met his future wife, whom he married in 1980.

He began his university teaching at Xavier College, Sydney, NS in 1965 following his ordination as a Roman Catholic priest in 1964, moving onto St. Francis Xavier University in the fall of 1966, where he was a regular member of the faculty for over forty years. After his retirement, he continued teaching part-time for another eight years. He was awarded the status of Professor Emeritus in 2017.

While a student at the *École Biblique*, he became involved in archaeological field work in Israel, also doing

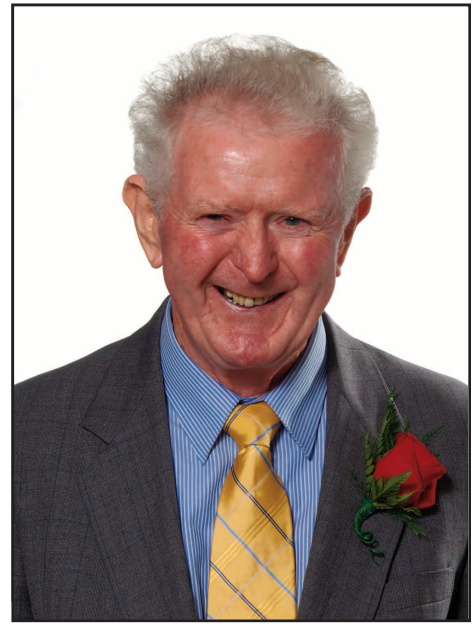
field work in Cyprus, Egypt and Jordan. Ultimately, He spent forty years doing archaeological work in Jordan beginning in 1979. He directed five major survey projects in Jordan and published 12 books and over 100 articles. He was known for the alacrity of his publications and his generosity in the sharing of his findings. He held fellowships at Cambridge University (UK), Massey College (University of Toronto), Dunbarton Oaks (Washington, DC) and at the American Center of Oriental Research (Amman, Jordan).

He received many awards: St. Francis Xavier University Research Award (2000); G. Ernest Wright Publications Award from the American Schools of Oriental Research (2005); and the St. Francis Xavier University Hall of Honour (2010) for his scholarship, his service, and his humanity," the citation noting that he was "a humble and unassuming individual... known for untiring devotion to his students and his academic peers." Colleagues of Burton acknowledged his achievements in the publication *Walking through Jordan: Essays in Honour of Burton MacDonald* (2017) which "acknowledges and honours the singular achievement and wider impacts of Jordan's most prominent survey archaeologist."



Memories of his Madaba Plains Project colleagues include Douglas Clark, who said, "With the passing of Burton, we are all the poorer, and from our acquaintance with him, we are all better. Few people were as engaging and engaged;" Lawrence Geraty reminisced, "I've enjoyed being Burton's friend for the last fifty years. Recently we co-authored an article on the southern location of Sodom, to appear in the Lexham Geographical Commentary. A generous gentleman, may he rest in peace.;" Larry Herr, noted, "I remember the many experiences we had over the years on his Edomite surveys in Jordan. He and I looked at thousands of broken pieces of pottery together, putting together their types and periods. He will always be Mr.

Archaeological Survey to me;" and from Randall Younker, Øystein LaBianca, Paul Ray, Paul Gregor, Robert Bates and Jeffrey Hudon, "For the faculty and staff of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University, Burton was an encouraging mentor, a supportive colleague, and a dear friend ... Notably, Randall Younker, was privileged to co-edit a book entitled *Ancient Ammon* with Burton. Burton's many publications set a high benchmark for all his colleagues to emulate, and while his influence upon his chosen field will continue for decades to come, Burton will be greatly missed by his many friends and archaeological colleagues." (Published obituary and memories, slightly modified by Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



Burton MacDonald.



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# RANDOM SURVEY

*Romans Camps Found:*

Three Roman army camps have recently been located in the SE desert of Jordan. These camps extend in a line 37-42 km distance from each other, from the Oasis of Bayir to Dumat al-Jandal on the border of Arabia, marking the eastern extent of the Nabataean kingdom. Small Roman army camps were often used during short campaigns, and these may have been associated with a previously unknown Roman campaign directed toward the eastern portion of the Nabatean kingdom at the time of its annexation in AD 106 by Trajan.

*Memorial Inscription Found:*

Part of a royal memorial inscription, bearing 23 lines of cuneiform text has recently been discovered at Qabaq Tappeh, an extensive and important settlement, dating from the third millennium BC to the Islamic period, in western Iran. The inscription is attributed to the Neo-Assyrian king Sargon II, who reigned between 721–705 BC.

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*Coin Cache Found:*

A hoard of 175 silver Roman denarii coins have recently been found in the Tuscan Forest, near Livorno, Italy. The earliest coins date to 157 or 156 BC, and the latest to 83 or 82 BC. Archaeologists suggest that the cache found inside of a ceramic pot, was buried by a former soldier who served either during Rome's Social War from 91 to 88 BC or during the civil war between Sulla and the Marians from 83 to 82 BC, but who died before he could recover his savings. Except for two fragmented, but restorable coins, all the rest are still in good condition.

*Sanctuary of Poseidon Found?*

Archaeologists may have found the 6th century BC sanctuary of Samian Poseidon on the ancient acropolis of Samicum, in Greece. Large (9.5 m /30 ft wide) sections of the foundations have been unearthed, with 0.8 m (2.5 ft) wide walls. A large marble *perirhanterion* imitating a bronze bowl, characteristic of the inventory of a sanctuary, was also found. According to Strabo and Pausanias the sanctuary of Poseidon was the religious center of the six cities of Triphylia that formed an amphictyony (confederation).

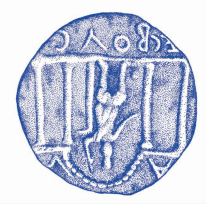
*Sundial Found:*

Archaeologists have recently unearthed a 2000-year-old, early imperial Roman-period, white marble sundial in the ancient Phrygian city of Aizanoi, in western Turkey, on the River Penkalas. The artifact measures 45 cm (18 in) high by 43 cm (17 in) wide.

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