ACOR أكور
AMERICAN CENTER OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH
المركز الأمريكي للأبحاث الشرقية

أخبار أكور
NEWSLETTER
Volume 31.2 Winter 2019

Bayt Ras: Founding the Roman City

Jehad Haron, Nizar Al Adarbeh, and Ahmad Lash[1]

During the Hellenistic period, the area known today as Jordan was one of the most prominent regions of the Levant, due in part to its central location. During this time, several of the emerging cities in the southern region of the Levant sought to support one another by forming a league, referred to by some scholars as the Decapolis. This league is not recognized by some historians, but according to others it lasted throughout the Roman era, with the Roman leader Pompey supporting its revival. The Roman invasion of the Levant region made a significant cultural impact reflected in architecture, mythology, lifestyle, urban planning, burial practice, and costume. But what about the local inhabitants of the southern Levant, and Jordan in particular?

Although we have many historical accounts that shed light on the lives of the local inhabitants of this area under the Roman Empire, we lack key details that could give a clearer picture of their daily lives. For example, a key unanswered question for archaeologists and architects is how Roman cities in the Levant, such as Philadelphia, Garasa, Pella, Gadara, Capitolias and others, were built. Unfortunately, we do not have many sources describing the masons, quarries, architects, laborers, methods for transporting and lifting heavy materials, tools, or, above all, the creation of a founding myth for a new city. A recent discovery in Bayt Ras, Irbid, however, may provide important new information about these important topics.

Depicted at the center of the west wall of the recently-discovered Bayt Ras Tomb: Zeus Kapitolios (Jupiter Capitolias) enthroned, after whom the city of Capitolias (Bayt Ras) was named. To his right, Tyche (fortune); to his left, Tyche of Caesarea Maritima (courtesy of CNRS).

While the foundational myth of Rome is perhaps the most famous example, many other cities of this era were also defined by a story involving a blessing from the Roman pantheon at its creation. While many of these myths have been lost to history, archaeologists are still uncovering clues that provide insight not only into a city's daily life, but also into its mythological foundation. The Bayt Ras Tomb contains a wealth of such clues.

In November 2016, a painted Roman-era tomb was uncovered in the city of Bayt Ras by a bulldozer working on a sewage project, and it was immediately sealed for protection by the Department of Antiquities (DOA). In 2017, an international consortium was formed to document and preserve this important discovery, alongside the DOA and ACOR USAID SCHEP,[2] and The Bayt Ras Tomb Project was born (see p. 6 for all consortium partners). Over the last three years the ongoing research (some of which has been documented in earlier issues of this newsletter) has revealed the significance of this discovery, and the consortium team has been able to study many different dimensions of the hypogeum. Through this ongoing analysis, the research team has come to believe that this tomb may hold the key to the previously unknown mythology behind the founding of Capitolias, a member of the Decapolis League and the precursor of modern-day Bayt Ras.

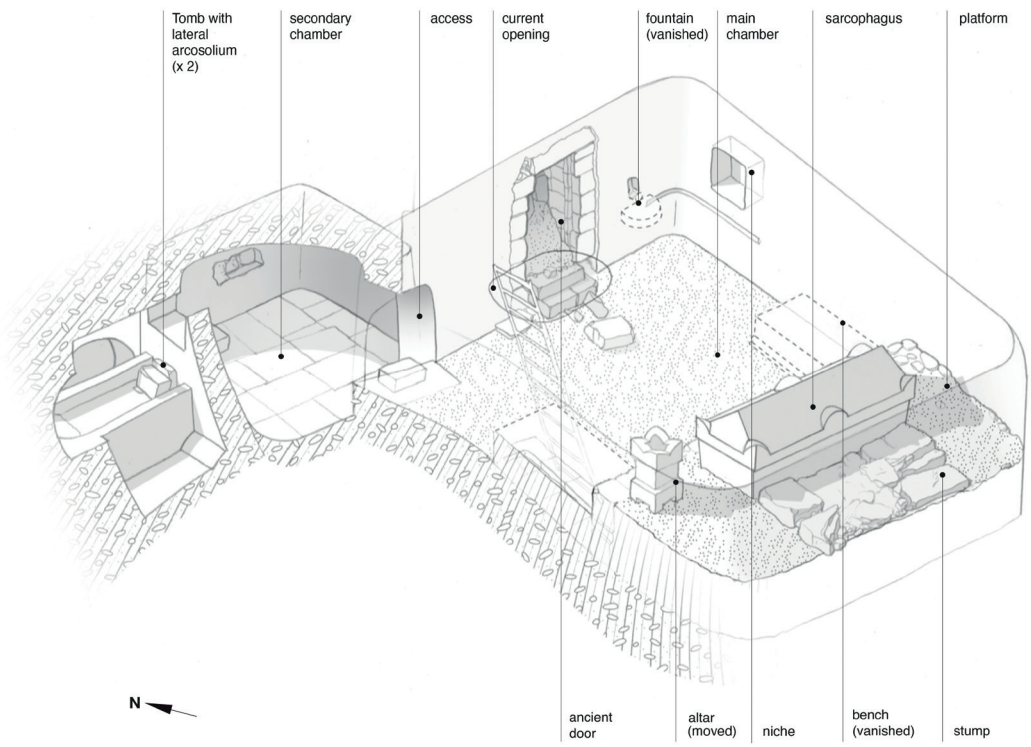
About the Hypogeum

The hypogeum, carved into the limestone bedrock and approximately oriented to the cardinal points, consists of three parts. Firstly, there is a painted room (I) that measures ca. 6.7 m x 5.7 m. The floor is paved with flagstones; a huge basalt sarcophagus was installed at the western part of the hypogeum surrounded by a masonry structure preserved as a platform. At its highest point, the painted ceiling rises ca. 2.5 m above this archaeological fill. Secondly, a narrow opening in the northeast corner of the painted room (I) leads to a smaller squared-plan room (II). Less tall, it is covered by a white plaster. The north wall presents an opening giving an access, thirdly, to a burial space (III). Rough masonry is employed for the door jambs and a larger hewn stone forms the lintel.

Opening of the sarcophagus (photo courtesy of Ifpo)

The Burials

The remains of at least 24 individuals were recovered from the Bayt Ras hypogeum; 10 individuals were found inside the sarcophagus of Room 1, and 14 individuals in the small tomb of Room 2. All age groups are represented except teenagers, and both female and male remains are present. The high degree of disturbance among the burials prevented the team from fully analyzing the contents of the deposits or the funerary rites and items that accompanied the dead. In the small tomb, ornamental artifacts (small bracelets and a ring) and clothing items (the remains of small shoes) make clear that some of the deceased, especially the younger ones, were adorned for their burials. In the sarcophagus, the remains of fabric indicate the probable use of a shroud or clothing for at least one of the deceased. A detailed analysis of the fabric samples and the orange sediment found around them will help to determine their characteristics.

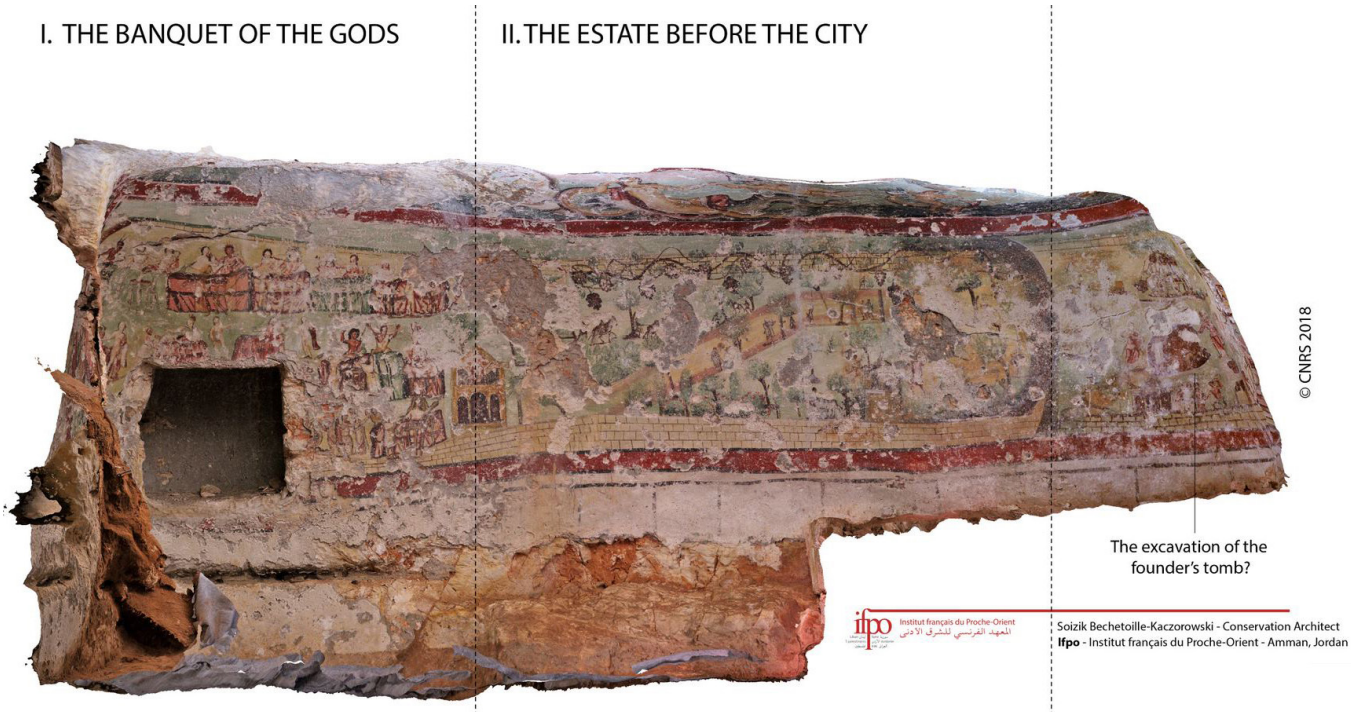


Isometric reconstruction of the hypogeum (image courtesy of Ifpo)

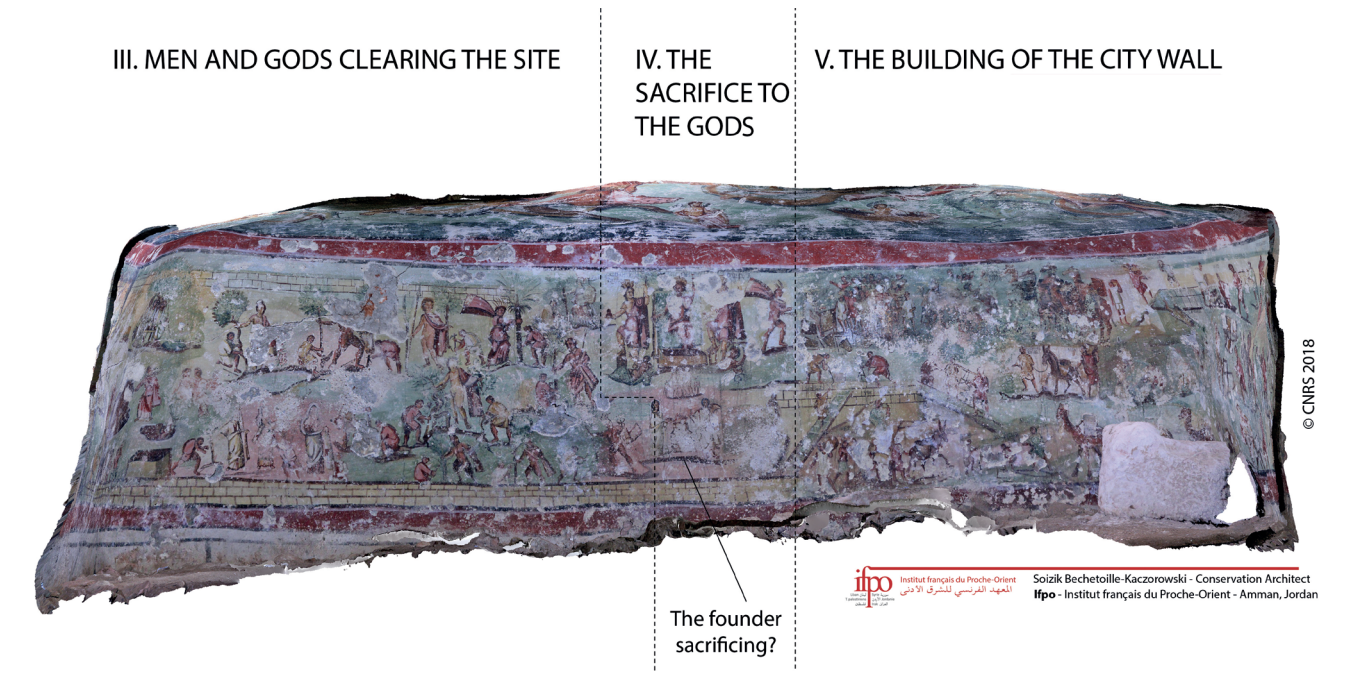
Both the sarcophagus and the small tomb are comingled cases with a high percentage of breakage. Thus, reassociation of bones with distinct individuals was very challenging, which made difficult the completion of analysis to understand the biological profile of the population of Bayt Ras and the study of possible familial relationships among the deceased. As dating the deposits through archaeological indicators was impossible, carbon-14 analysis was conducted by Beta Analytic in the United States on 15 samples extracted from human bones, retrieved from different contexts within the tomb. Twelve were successfully analyzed, presenting a continual timeframe of use for the tomb from the 1st to 5th centuries A.D.

The Murals and Inscriptions

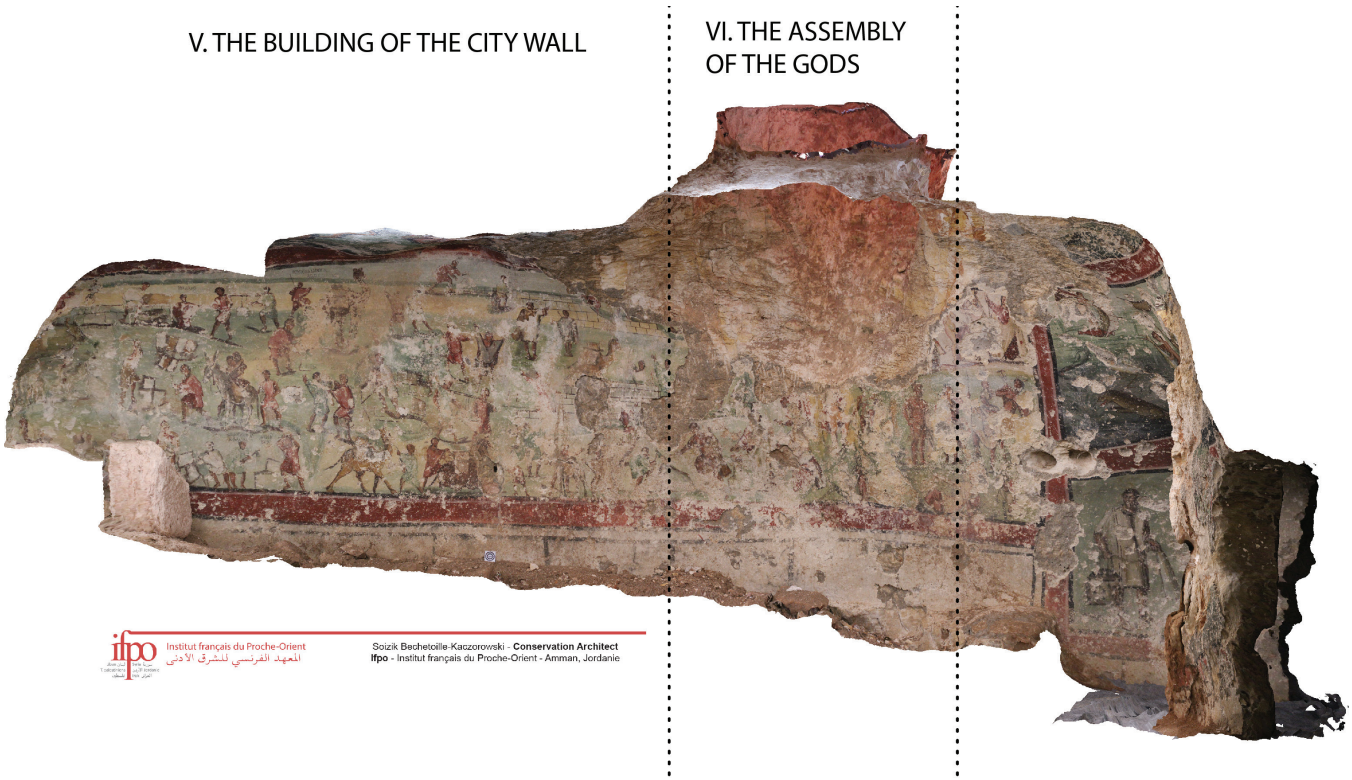
The inner walls of the Bayt Ras hypogeum are characterized by rich and colorful paintings that depict a range of scenes. An original composition running along three walls of the tomb traces the founding of the city of Capitolias in six panels, where the gods of Olympus, who preside over this process, come to lend a hand to mere mortals, from whom they receive tributes in return. Two panels on the south wall, to the left of the entrance, show the gods at the banquet, followed by a series of images of rural life that could evoke the appearance of a rural estate that preceded the city. A scene difficult to interpret in the southwest corner may show the excavation of the tomb itself. In the next panel, on the west wall



The south wall (photo courtesy of Ifpo)



The west wall (photo courtesy of Ifpo)



The north wall (photo courtesy of Ifpo)

facing the entrance, the future site of the city is cleared with the help of the gods.

Three deities are enthroned in the middle of the same wall, exactly in the axis of the tomb entrance (see p. 1). Each of them is clearly identified by a painted Greek inscription: in the middle, Zeus Kapitolios (Jupiter Capitolinus), who gave his name to Capitolias; to his right, the great Tyche (Fortune), or guardian goddess of the city; and to his left, the specific Tyche of Caesarea Maritima, capital city of the province to which Capitolias belonged under the Roman Empire. Below this group, the character dressed in a Roman toga who offers a sacrifice certainly had the status of a Roman citizen. He could be the owner of the tomb and the founder of the city. In the northwest corner and on much of the adjacent walls, the estate and the building of the city wall are depicted in detail.

Numerous sketches illustrate not only the carving of stones, transport of materials by camels and mules, work of architects and foremen but also scenes of disputes, accidents, and even the payment of haulers. Sixty-one inscriptions painted in black are associated with these images of daily life on the site. Unlike the inscriptions associated with the three enthroned deities, which are written in Greek, these use the Greek alphabet to transcribe Aramaic, the local language, in order to describe construction activities. The composition ends with a last panel representing the assembly of the gods and goddesses of the city.

Construction activities depicted on the north wall with Greek inscriptions (photo courtesy of CNRS)

NORTH WALL
THE CONSTRUCTION SITE

28. ΟΥΑΙ ΛΕΙ ΜΕΙΘΙΘ.
"Alas for me, I am dead!"

36. ΙΘΑΒΑΡΕΙΧ.
"May he be blessed!"

39. ΑΝΑ ΜΑΛΛΙ.
Maybe: "I am full/done."

43. ΩΒΙΑ.
"Thick, stupid."

Documentation of the Paintings

Various approaches were implemented to document these outstanding mural paintings, and recent iconography work will help researchers enhance their interpretation and analysis of the depicted scenes and inscriptions. The vectorization of the murals is carried out using Adobe Illustrator drawing software. From a model document, files are created for each scene and are then transposed into an overview file at the actual size of the wall surface. The drawings and elements of the tomb's decoration are distributed in layers in a hierarchical manner, according to their nature and the element to which they belong, in an attempt to preserve the way the painter gradually built up the images. Thus, a character is assembled in a layer that contains underlayers, or groups, in which the head, crown, chest, tunic, leg, etc. are distributed. The same type of distribution is made for a tree, which is divided into subassemblies of trunk, foliage, etc. The expected outcomes from this work will shed light on the 250 scenes and 65 inscriptions, and contribute to our understanding of the style and technique of the original artist or artists.

Iconography analysis sample (photo courtesy of J. Humbert and USAID SCHEP)

Concurrent with the documentation and analysis of the mural paintings and inscriptions, several conservation and restoration missions have already been conducted to ensure the state of conservation, and to avoid any impact by excavation work or exposure on the mural paintings.

Practical conservation of mural paintings underway (photo courtesy of ISCR)

Training

As part of USAID SCHEP support for the Bayt Ras Tomb Project, several training activities have been carried out, alongside excavation, conservation, and documentation missions. These trainings targeted DOA staff and graduate students from the local community, with the goal of building the capacity of Jordan's overall cultural heritage sector, especially when it comes to the specialized knowledge and techniques necessary for dealing with fragile sites such as this hypogeum. In addition to related trainings held by SCHEP and the Bayt Ras Tomb Project in previous years, a customized course in Roman pottery analysis was held in Bayt Ras in September 2019. The curriculum included sorting and categorizing pottery by shape, reconstructing broken pottery, dating and documenting pottery, and more.

Training in Roman Pottery Analysis, Irbid, September 2019 (photo courtesy of USAID SCHEP)

This training was accompanied by a course on Guidelines for the Conservation of Wall Paintings, through which recent graduates and trainees from the DOA learned fundamental skills for the first-aid conservation of archaeological wall paintings like those found in the Bayt Ras hypogeum, through a practical, hands-on approach. This specially-designed course highlighted the importance of documentation and the most essential steps to follow after the discovery of such wall paintings. Trainees were able to practice their new skills at the Bayt Ras Roman theater, where two mural panting panels can be found.

Training in Wall Painting Conservation, Irbid, September 2019 (photo courtesy of USAID SCHEP)

Screenshot from USAID SCHEP video, "The results of Bayt Ras Tomb Project," showing training on wall painting conservation taking place within the tomb. Full video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZoUDyikcHw.

Conclusion

Three peculiarities make the Bayt Ras Roman tomb exceptional compared to others discovered in the Near East: first, the abundance of representations in the wall paintings and the uniqueness of the narrative, centered on the sacrifice offered by a priest to the deities of a city and a provincial capital; second, the cohabitation and combination of Greek and Aramaic, the two main languages of the Roman Near East; and third, the historical connotation of the iconographic program illustrating the foundation myth of Capitolias in A.D. 98.

Although we do not know their exact identity, the patron who ordered the decoration of the tomb before being buried within it is quite possibly the one depicted in the murals as officiant in the scene of sacrifice. If this is case, the main occupant of the tomb was likely a Roman citizen who was responsible for the founding of the city under the orders of the Roman authorities. While there are other possible interpretations, it is for this reason, and thanks to the efforts of the Bayt Ras Consortium members who have excavated, documented, conserved, and analyzed this unique find, that the consortium argues that this hypogeum can be called the "Founder's Tomb."

While there remains more to uncover and analyze about this remarkable find, the Founder's Tomb, through the efforts of the Bayt Ras Consortium, has already made a significant contribution to our understanding of many aspects of life in the Roman-era Levant, as well as the mythology underpinning it. The Bayt Ras Tomb Project is ongoing, and analysis of the paintings and inscriptions will continue, as will the support of USAID SCHEP for the conservation, documentation, and interpretation of this invaluable site. We thank all of our partners, including ACOR and the DOA, for their collaboration, and look forward to sharing more about future discoveries and analysis.

Bayt Ras Consortium Partners (2019)

DOA (Department of Antiquities of Jordan)
H.E. Yazid Elayyan
Ahmad Lash
Amjad Batayneh
ACOR (American Center of Oriental Research)
Barbara Porter
USAID SCHEP
Nizar Al Adarbeh
Jehad Haron
ISCR (Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro)
Giorgio Sobra
Marie-José Mano
Giovanna De Palma
ISPRA (Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale)
Giuseppe Delmonaco
Francesco Traversa
Ifpo (Institut français du Proche-Orient)
Dominique Pieri
Soizik Bechetoille-Kaczorowski
Jean-Sylvain Caillou
Joyce Nasser
Chiara Fornace
Lucie Duvignac
Loïc Mazou
CNRS (Centre national de la recherche scientifque)
Claude Vibert-Guigue
CNRS/HiSoMA (Histoire et Sources des Mondes Antiques), Lyon University
Julien Aliquot
Jean-Baptiste Yon
Pierre-Louis Gatier
External Experts
Francesca Mancinelli
Jean Humbert

Notes

[1] Jehad Haron, USAID SCHEP Deputy Chief of Party and Bayt Ras Project Co-Director; Nizar Al Adarbeh, USAID SCHEP Chief of Party; and Ahmad Lash, Head of the Archaeological Loans Department at the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and Bayt Ras Project Co-Director.

[2] SCHEP (Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project) is implemented by ACOR and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

ACOR would like to thank The Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation, which funded a $10,000 grant in August 2019 in support of the Busayra Heritage Awareness Program

ACOR Projects in Petra Updates

Jack Green, Associate Director and TWLCRM Initiative Director

ACOR's work in Petra focuses currently on two sites, the Petra Church and the Temple of the Winged Lions (see ACOR Newsletter 30.2 for the last report). In 2019, following activities of 2018, no excavations or conservation work was conducted at the Temple of the Winged Lions. There was a focus on conservation at the 5th century Baptistery at the Petra Church after the 2018 assessment demonstrated that its temporary shelter needed modifications. A two-week Emergency Baptistery Shelter Maintenance Project took place at the Petra Church; this was completed successfully in the last two weeks of September by Franco Sciorilli with support from the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority, especially Ibrahim Farajat, Director of Cultural Resource Management, Wajd Yousef, who served as the PDTRA project liaison, and Yahya Al Hasanat, foreman of the PDTRA workers. The repair, modification, and northern extension to the shelter is intended to last around three years, subject to ongoing maintenance.

During the reinstallation of the temporary shelter. From left: Hala Farajat, Wajd Nawafleh, Ibrahim Farajat (PDTRA), Franco Sciorilli (Independent conservator), Jack Green (ACOR) (photo courtesy of Jack Green).

The temporary shelter now with extension at its northern end, October 2019 (photo by Jack Green)

Outreach activities this summer related to ACOR Projects in Petra included a well-attended Temple of the Winged Lions Study Day at Petra College in Wadi Musa (July 9), which was supported by USAID SCHEP staff and funding. Hosted at Petra College, Al Hussein Bin Talal University in Wadi Musa, the event was co-chaired by Jack Green of ACOR and Ibrahim Farajat of PDTRA. Barbara Porter of ACOR, Ali Al-Khayyat of DOA, and Zeyad as-Salameen of Petra College gave introductory remarks. Presentations were given by Jack Green, Franco Sciorilli, Marco Dehner, Pauline Piraud Fournet and Safa Joudeh, and Halemah Nawafleh and Taher Falahat. Additional presentations on the Petra Church and the Temple of the Winged Lions were given by Barbara Porter and Jack Green at the Department of Antiquities (June 19), as well as for tour guides in Wadi Musa (July 8) and Amman (September 26). All of these helped to share much more of the work we are doing.

Participants on the last day of survey at Temple of the Winged Lions: from left: Ahmad Jaber (Petra College), Hussam Hasanat (PDTRA), Obada Farajat (DOA), Mohammed al Hasanat (Petra College), Taher Falahat (PDTRA), Israa Jumaa (Petra College), Diana Al Manaseer (Petra College), Jack Green (ACOR)

A Visitor Survey and Tracking project took place in October at the Temple of the Winged Lions in partnership with the PDTRA and the Petra College of Tourism and Archaeology at Hussein Al-Bin Talal University (HBTU) and with support of the DOA. Four students and two PDTRA staff members conducted interviews and tracked visitors over a two-week period. This project, supported through USAID SCHEP, serves as an important pilot project, which encourages the PDTRA and Petra College to work together and to engage with visitors at the site and gather information on how to improve it for visitors. Dr. Mukhles Al-Ababnah of Al-Hussein Bin Talal University conducted an analysis of the survey of visitors and tour guides, and this will be used to help improve the visitor experience by documenting perceptions and use of the site following recent interventions. We are grateful for the support of Dr. Zeyad as-Salameen of Petra College and Ibrahim Farajat of PDTRA.

The Temple of the Winged Lions (TWL) Publication Project 2019 saw continued efforts at ACOR, Amman (see *ACOR Newsletter* 31.1). TWL Publication Fellow Pauline Piraud-Fournet joined ACOR in 2019 to conduct bibliographical and archival research focused on Philip Hammond's 1974–2005 excavations and research at TWL. TWL Intern Safa Joudeh, assisted by ACOR interns Libby Trowbridge and Gabe McGill, documented objects sifted from the temple between 2012 and 2018. Joudeh went on to digitize and rehouse drawings from the Philip C. Hammond/American Expedition to Petra Archive at ACOR, improving the state of documentation.

We are grateful for generous support from Petra Church endowment and the Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management (TWLCRM) Initiative and welcome continued support and donations.

ACOR Photo Archive Update

Jessica Holland, Archivist

In 2019, the Photo Archive team indexed and digitized 24,000 images that are now accessible via the ACOR Photo Archive, a project supported by a Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Senior Archivists Corrie Commisso and Charles Jones advised the team in April and September, respectively. In June, Aaron Rubinstein reviewed the project's accomplishments to date.

The ACOR Photo Archive team from left: Barbara A. Porter, Samya Khalaf Kafafi, Jessica Holland, Ashley Lumb, Charles Jones (Senior Archivist), Carmen (Humi) Ayyoubi, Razan Ahmad, Rachael McGlensey, and Jack Green. Not pictured: Eslam Al-Dawodieh

Rachael McGlensey served as Project Archivist from January to June and August to December. With Library and Archives Assistant Eslam Dawodieh, Rachael finished digitizing the Paul and Nancy Lapp photographic collection and publishing it online. Project Archivist Ashley Lumb joined ACOR in June, and to date has indexed and digitized the photographic collection of former ACOR Director Bert de Vries.

Exterior of new ACOR building, 1988–1991, Bert de Vries collection

Hala Al-Saqqa (Library and Archives Trainee) and Razan Ahmad (Archival Technician) made significant progress on the digitization of the Rami Khouri collection. On July 2–3, ACOR and the National Library of Jordan co-hosted the 3rd Annual Archival Methods Workshop. More than 60 participants from 18 institutions took part. Speakers included Jack Reed of the Stanford University Libraries, John Hayhurst of the British Library, and Jihad Kafafi and Yosha Al-Amri of the Jordan Museum. Drawing from their work on the Photo Archive, ACOR Project Team members gave presentations about metadata, digitization, and specific collections.

Yosha Al-Amri giving Hala Al-Syoof of the Department of Antiquities a demonstration of the hand-held 3D object scanner at the Archival Methods workshop at ACOR, July 3, 2019

The ACOR Library and Archives team collaborated with Wikimedia Levant and the Jordan Open Source Association in October to host the first ever Wikipedia edit-a-thon at ACOR. In November, archaeologist Brian Byrd donated his photographic collection to ACOR.

Image from the Brian Byrd collection showing the removal of Neolithic statues from Ain Ghazal, 1983

Reaching new international audiences, Archivist Jessica Holland presented the project at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) congress in Athens, Greece, in August, and at the concurrent conferences of the Digital Library Forum of the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) and the National Digital Stewardship Alliance in Florida during October. In November, Assistant Librarian Samya Khalaf Kafafi presented on the archive as an educational tool at the Jordan School Librarians conference in Amman. The Photo Archive published several photo essays about the collections, accessible on the project website: www.photoarchive.acorjordan.org.

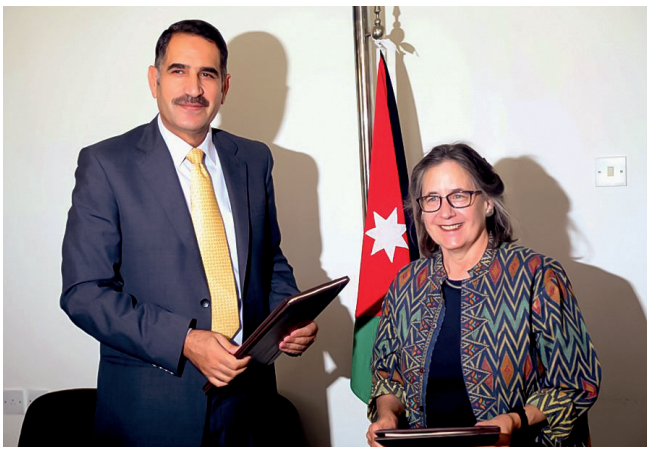
The ACOR Photo Archive team also continued to digitize the photographic collections of the 'Aqaba-Ma'an Archaeological and Epigraphic Survey (AMAES), directed by the late Professor William Jobling of the University of Sydney from 1980 to 1990. In 2019, ACOR digitized 2,600 black-and-white negatives thanks to support from the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation of the University of Sydney.

USAID SCHEP Updates

Nizar Al Adarbeh, Shatha Abu Aballi, and Starling Carter[1]

The year 2019 was the first full year of the USAID SCHEP[2] extension period, which will continue until 2022, in which the project takes a new approach to fostering sustainable management of Jordan's cultural heritage resources (CHR) while building upon the previous experience of the project (see *ACOR Newsletter* 30.2). Therefore, many of the project activities in 2019 focused on establishing a solid foundation for the coming years of intensive implementation.

As a foundation for continued cooperation with the major project partners, ACOR signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with the Department of Antiquities (DOA), Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA), and Petra Development & Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA) in 2019 (Fig. 1). The agreements outline collaboration during the extension period, including providing capacity-building programs at Open Learning Environments (OLEs) for employees, and facilitating knowledge sharing and exchange. SCHEP is grateful for these partnerships, and we look forward to working together for the preservation and sustainability of Jordan's rich cultural heritage.



Dr. Barbara Porter of ACOR signs an MOU with H.E. Yazid Elayyan, Director-General of the DOA (all photos by USAID SCHEP).

As part of these agreements, SCHEP conducted Institutional Needs Assessments to analyze institutional roles, structures, divisions, challenges and opportunities, available equipment and software, and working environment. SCHEP also built a database of available human resources within these institutions in order to structure training programs and career development for personnel.

Another key achievement was a series of workshops for the formulation of the Jordan Archaeological Heritage Strategy 2020–2024, implemented in fall 2019. The outcomes of these workshops will lay the groundwork for future discussions and the development of a comprehensive strategy for the management of Jordan's heritage. More than 100 participants took part in these workshops, including representatives of ACOR SCHEP, the DOA, the Wadi Rum Protected Area/ASEZA, PDTRA, and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. SCHEP and its partners will continue to work together to develop the strategy with the input of local and international experts, academic institutions, NGOs, and others.

In its capacity-building program, in order to help its partners become more self-sufficient SCHEP targets areas that need strengthening, or new skills that were previously lacking in Jordan's CHR sector, in order to help our partners become more self-sufficient. In 2019, SCHEP supported several training programs including; Art of Mosaic Production Training in cooperation with the Madaba Institute of Mosaic Art and Restoration (MIMAR), Local and Historical Awareness for Heritage Museum Planning in cooperation with the Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project (MRAMP) and MIMAR, Principles of Studying Roman Pottery, as part of the Bayt Ras Project, and Guidelines for the Conservation of Wall Paintings, also in Bayt Ras.

Art teachers from the Jordan Valley area practice making their own mosaics as part of the Second Art of Mosaic Production Training.

In fall 2019, SCHEP also supported the DOA's emergency excavations at the endangered Neolithic site of 'Ain Ghazal, and offered a hands-on training program alongside these critical interventions. While this activity was not initially part of SCHEP's capacity building plan, the project was able to act quickly to meet urgent, unexpected needs. The archaeological site at 'Ain Ghazal is threatened with destruction by bulldozers clearing land to expand the highway between Amman and Zarqa, and some features of the site have already been damaged or destroyed. Emergency excavations were led by the DOA Director of Amman Antiquities Office, Basem Mahamid, and SCHEP contracted Prof. Gary Rollefson as a key expert to support DOA during this process. Beginning in October 2019, the excavations were accompanied by a series of applied training sessions on topics such as field documentation and surveying techniques, excavation methods in endangered sites, handling objects during excavations, research studies and reporting, and site presentation and interpretation.

Participants in the Applied Capacity Building Program at 'Ain Ghazal Archaeological Site, including Dr. Gary Rollefson (back row, center) and Basem Mahamid, Project Director (back row, far right) and members of the ACOR SCHEP team, on December 18

On October 28, USAID SCHEP signed an agreement with AMIDEAST to provide training in English language skills to Jordan's CHR institutions and other CHR stakeholders over three years. The courses will include fundamentals of the English language, technical report writing, professional presentation skills, and project management. This program is expected to reach around 200 beneficiaries from different geographic areas throughout the Kingdom, including employees of key heritage institutions, among them the DOA, PDTRA, and ASEZA/WRPA. As part of this program, AMIDEAST will conduct English language assessments, which will help SCHEP's efforts to support the CHR sector.

SCHEP supports the development of heritage-related organizations as part of its mandate to build and strengthen the CHR community of practice. In this regard, SCHEP signed a grant agreement with the Jordan Friends of Archaeology and Heritage (FoAH) on July 15, 2019, to continue its support for FoAH's programs in awareness-raising and education. SCHEP also signed an agreement with the International Council on Monuments and Sites–Jordan (ICOMOS–Jordan) to support its establishment and foundational activities. SCHEP is currently the principal funder of ICOMOS–Jordan, which is helmed by H.R.H. Princess Dana Firas. Under the patronage of the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, H.E. Majd Shweikeh, ICOMOS–Jordan officially launched its activities on June 20, 2019, through a private event organized and implemented with support from SCHEP.

On May 4, 2019, SCHEP celebrated the winners of the Our Heritage Our Identity Video Competition, organized in partnership with the Ministry of Education, DOA, and FoAH as part of the Generations 4 Heritage awareness program. Overall, 176 students from throughout Jordan submitted short videos to the contest, highlighting one aspect of their heritage. Videos were reviewed by a panel, and 40 students were selected to receive special prizes at the ceremony, held at the Odeon Theater in downtown Amman. The videos demonstrated the students' creativity and enthusiasm for Jordan's heritage, and can be seen on SCHEP's YouTube channel.

SCHEP's awareness and education activities continued apace this year. SCHEP held several mosaic workshops, including at the Twenty-Third Arabian Camp for Girl Guides, held in Amman in July 2019. These workshops, which targeted 150 young women from 11 different countries, spread awareness of the mosaic as one of Jordan's most important art forms.

USAID SCHEP mosaic workshops at the Ministry of Education Forum for Girl Guides and Boy Scouts at Al Karameh Camp, November 14, 2019

Another major focus of SCHEP's work is to provide continuous support CHR Projects in Madaba, Bayt Ras (for more details, see lead article), and Wadi Rum, each of which is tied to a CHR OLE, as well as support to other SCHEP-affiliated projects, such as the TWLCRM Initiative (see p. 7). In this quarter, the Wadi Rum OLE came close to completion, with renovations enabling the selected building to serve as a comfortable space for future CHR trainings. Major renovations of the circular hall at the DOA offices in Amman, which will also serve as an OLE, were planned and designs drafted. SCHEP also supported Madaba Regional Archaeological Museum Project (MRAMP) with the holding of meetings for key stakeholders, along with project-tied training programs.

SCHEP also continued to support four tourism- and heritage-focused Micro to Small Enterprises (MSEs) through grants and technical assistance, focusing in part on enhancing their social media presence and marketing abilities through training and technical support. The MSEs are a key part of SCHEP's strategy to link cultural heritage to sustainable tourism that benefits local communities by providing economic opportunities and engaging them as partners in preservation. In 2019, SCHEP signed new grant agreements with the Busayra Foundation for Cultural Heritage, Aqabawi, and the South Valley Company for Sustainable Cultural Heritage and Tourism Promotion, focusing on sustainability and self-reliance.

Participants in the first Social Media and Marketing Training with trainer Zaid Ammari (front row, center,), SCHEP's Promotion and Marketing Officer, Dina al Majali (front row, fourth from left) and Intuitional Development Lead Hanadi Altaher (front row, fifth from right)

For more information about ACOR's USAID SCHEP project and full team, visit www.usaidschep.org. To see some of SCHEP's programs in action, you can find videos of project activities on YouTube (USAID SCHEP), and stay up-to-date on their most recent activities on the following social media channels:

Facebook: USAID SCHEP
Twitter: @USAIDSCHEP
Instagram: USAID_SCHEP
LinkedIn: USAID SCHEP
Flickr: USAID SCHEP
Snapchat: USAIDSCHEP

[1]Nizar Al Adarbeh, USAID SCHEP Chief of Party; Shatha Abu Aballi, Communications Manager; and Starling Carter, Communications Specialist.

[2]The Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP) is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR).

Message from Ambassador Edward "Skip" Gnehm, Incoming ACOR President

(photo courtesy of Skip Gnehm)

In November 2019 the Trustees chose me to succeed Randy Old as President of the ACOR Board. I am deeply honored and humbled by the confidence of the Board and that of many of you. As I take up my responsibilities, I do so with much gratitude for the years of service that Randy (and Jody) have given to ACOR. I truly stand on the shoulders of great people — not the least of whom is Artie Joukowsky, who was the President when I joined the Board and remains a person that I greatly admire. I hope I can meet the high standards that both these people set for the position I now hold.

This is a year of transition and opportunity as we bid farewell to Dr. Barbara Porter and welcome on board our new Director, Dr. Pearce Paul Creasman (see p. 13). Under Barbara's leadership ACOR expanded its programs and its contribution to Jordanian-American friendship. Her legacy is a treasure. We wish her well in her next adventures.

With the arrival of our new Director in Amman in spring 2020, we launch ACOR onward and upward — continuing important work and looking toward new and challenging opportunities. Pearce Paul brings a deep understanding of the field of archeology — most significantly through his project in Sudan. He comes to ACOR from the University of Arizona, where he was an important leader in his academic circle. He brings an entrepreneurial spirit and an enthusiasm for what ACOR stands for and the horizons that stand before us.

None of what we have done in the past or what we will do in the future could happen without the steadfast support of ACOR's friends. You have been with ACOR through difficult times and times of great celebration. We are going to need your ongoing support even more given current challenges. I thank you for your commitment and passion for ACOR. I pledge to you my wholehearted commitment to support ACOR and its new Director.

With my sincere appreciation to all of you in the ACOR family,
Skip Gnehm

Message from Randolph "Randy" B. Old, ACOR President 2011–2019

Randy Old and family on a late 1970s expedition to Ayn al Assad, Jordan. From left (back row): Talla Asfour, Jody and Randy Old, Gary Rollefson, and Ed Harrell; from left (front): Phil Harrell, Josephine Old, Katy Old (with cap), Bruce Old, and Matt Harrell (Photo: Old Family Archives)

I am pleased to announce that ACOR's Board of Trustees unanimously elected Ambassador Edward W. "Skip" Gnehm as its new President during its November Board meeting in San Diego, ensuring a smooth and effective transition. Skip has been on ACOR's board for the last eight years; he understands the institution, its finances, and its operation well. Skip has had close ties to the Middle East for nearly 50 years, beginning with his service as a career diplomat in the U.S. State Department. From his first posting to Jordan in 1984 as the U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission in the 1980s and his posting as U.S. Ambassador to Jordan from 2001 through 2004, Skip gained a deep knowledge of Jordan, a wide circle of friends, and a strong interest in ACOR. He also served as ambassador to Kuwait and Australia. As one of the most senior officers in the U.S. State Department, Skip led some of the Department's largest and most complex operations. Since his retirement from the State Department in 2004, Skip has been Vice Dean and on the faculty of George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs as the Kuwait Professor of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Affairs. He has a high level of energy, is committed to ACOR, is well respected by ACOR's board and the Jordanian community, plus his Arabic is superb. I do not think we could have found a better choice as President.

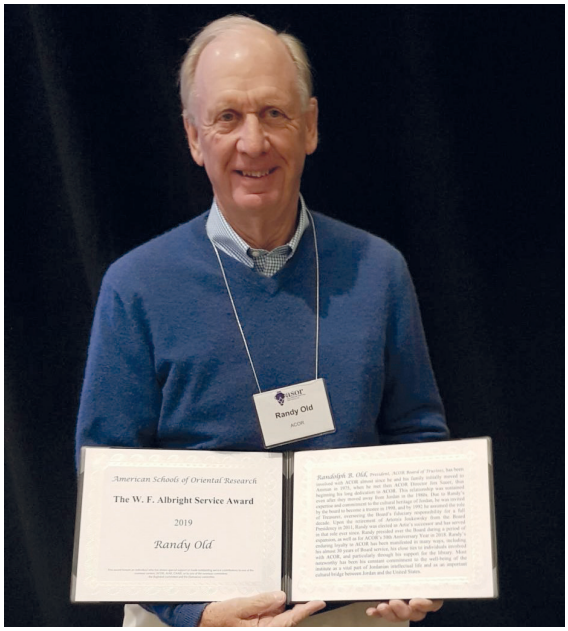
I express my deepest thanks to the ACOR community for the 30 years my family and I spent with the institution. Not many have such a privilege, and for that we are profoundly thankful. At my first board meeting, Anne Ogilvy was describing her search committee's choice of Pierre Bikai as the next Director, and from that day to now has been a wonderful ride. There have been many changes, from about $300,000 in debt to an endowment of $7 million, a significantly larger library, a variety of superb programs, large grants … but with all the changes, its character has stayed the same … the same warm, collegial, sincere organization.

Thank you for my time with you,
Randy Old & Family

American Schools of Oriental Research
The W. F. Albright Service Award
2019

Randolph B. Old

This award honors an individual who has shown special support or made outstanding service contributions to one of the overseas research centers, ACOR, AIAR, CAARI, or to one of the overseas committees — the Baghdad committee and the Damascus committee



Randy Old with his Albright Award, San Diego, November 2019

Randolph B. Old, President, ACOR Board of Trustees, has been involved with ACOR almost since he and his family initially moved to Amman in 1975, when he met then ACOR Director Jim Sauer, thus beginning his long dedication to ACOR. This relationship was sustained even after they moved away from Jordan in the 1980s. Due to Randy's expertise and commitment to the cultural heritage of Jordan, he was invited by the board to become a trustee in 1990, and by 1992 he assumed the role of Treasurer, overseeing the Board's fiduciary responsibility for a full decade. Upon the retirement of Artemis Joukowsky from the Board Presidency in 2011, Randy was elected as Artie's successor and has served that role ever since. Randy presided over the Board during a period of expansion, as well as for ACOR's 50th Anniversary Year in 2018. Randy's enduring loyalty to ACOR has been manifested in many ways, including his almost 30 years of Board service, his close ties to individuals involved with ACOR, and particularly through his support for the library. Most noteworthy has been his constant commitment to the well-being of the institute as a vital part of Jordanian intellectual life and as an important cultural bridge between Jordan and the United States.

In Memoriam: Mary Ellen Lane (1946–2019)

Mary Ellen Lane speaking on the occasion of her retirement from CAORC, 2014 (photo courtesy of CAORC)

Mary Ellen Lane, who was the driving force behind CAORC (Council of American Overseas Research Centers) from 1986 until her retirement in 2014, passed away in Washington, D.C. early in November 2019. Current CAORC executive director Rick Spees noted in a CAORC tribute "she had the unique combination of wit, sensitivity and understanding to promote new centers, and foster scholars and research across cultures." She joined the ACOR Board of Trustees in 2014 and brought considerable expertise in Washington matters.

She visited ACOR on several occasions, including as part of the CAORC Directors' meeting in the 1990s. This tradition for those running the scattered overseas centers to meet together with CAORC staff and discuss issues played an important role in connecting the centers and took place in such countries as Cambodia, India, Mongolia, Senegal, and Turkey, where the local institute hosted. She got to know the centers very well by visiting them and was constantly promoting them within the federal government and emphasizing their roles in soft diplomacy. She was proud to have "adopted" a mosaic in the Petra Church floor in honor of her husband, and thus supported ACOR's efforts in conserving the church.

Mary Ellen studied at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received her doctorate in Egyptology from the University of Paris IV Sorbonne. Prior to her work at CAORC, she was the assistant director for ARCE (American Research Center in Egypt), and knew firsthand the challenges of running overseas academic centers and supporting the work of visiting scholars.

She is survived by her husband, Colin Davies, and daughter, Julia Lane Davies, as well as her stepson, Adam, and his family. ACOR expresses sympathy to the family and to the wide circle of friends the world over, whose lives she touched in so many meaningful ways.

Barbara A. Porter

ACOR Announces Appointment of Pearce Paul Creasman as Director

(Photo by Mark Thiessen, National Geographic)

The Board of Trustees of the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman, Jordan, is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Pearce Paul Creasman as the next Director of ACOR. Dr. Creasman's selection was approved at the ACOR Board of Trustees meeting in San Diego in November. Dr. Creasman comes from the University of Arizona, where he has been a professor since 2009, focusing on the heritage, archaeology, and environment of the Middle East and North Africa. Starting in 2012, he served as director of the University of Arizona's Egyptian Expedition. Having worked in several countries in the region, his most recent archaeological project is directing the excavations at the pyramids and royal necropolis of Nuri, Sudan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Dr. Creasman' s degrees include a Ph.D. and M.A. in Anthropology/Nautical Archaeology from Texas A&M University and a B.A. from the University of Maine. Dr. Creasman will take up residence in Amman in March. He will be joined by his wife, Dr. Isabel Creasman, a professional in the fields of cognitive psychology, workforce development, and project evaluation. In welcoming Dr. Creasman, the Board also recognizes the enormous contributions of Dr. Barbara A. Porter, the outgoing Director, for her 14 years of dedicated service. Her outstanding efforts raised ACOR to its preeminent position today among American centers globally.

New ACOR Development and Communications Officer—Jacqueline Salzinger

Jacqueline Salzinger joined ACOR as the Development & Communications Officer at ACOR in August 2019. She assists the Director with fundraising for ACOR as well, as composing and distributing communications for various ACOR stakeholders and partners. She coordinates ACOR's communications strategy, manages social media, and supports ACOR's Public Lecture events.

Jacqueline graduated from Yale College magna cum laude in 2018 with a Bachelor's of Arts in Anthropology. Thereafter she studied at the Center for Arabic Study Abroad in Amman, 2018–2019. Her professional background includes administrative and program development and spans various nonprofits in the U.S., including refugee and immigrant services, community organizations, and public parks. She conducted ethnographic research in Amman in 2017 and 2018 on "Localization in Humanitarian Practice," analyzing workplace dynamics and multiculturalism in Amman-based NGOs. She is passionate about language education and Arabic pedagogy and is working towards a certification in Teaching English as a Second or Other Language.

(Photo courtesy of Ms. Salzinger)

Public Lectures at ACOR* (July–December 2019)

September 24–Omar Al-Ghul (Yarmouk University), "The Petra Papyri: A City's Diary from the 6th century C.E.," delivered in Arabic with English translation.

October 30–James Fraser (University of Sydney), "The Archaeology of Olive Oil: New Excavations at Khirbet Ghozlan in the Wadi Ar-Rayyan"

December 10–Robert Schick (University of Mainz), "Religious Change in Southern Jordan in the Byzantine and Early Islamic Periods"

*Lecture videos available on www.acorjordan.org and YouTube.

Omar Al-Ghul and Jackie Salzinger

Miles Armitage (Australia's Ambassador) and James Fraser

Robert Schick and Barbara Porter

Zovi Mananian and Akemi Horii sell books after Dr. Schick's lecture.

ACOR 2020–2021 Fellowship Awardees Announcement

National Endowment for the Humanities Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship

Amy Karoll (Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles) Shifting Landscapes: Analyzing Changes in Power and Society in the Southern Levant, c. 3300–1100 B.C.

Allison Mickel (Sociology and Anthropology, Lehigh University) Turning over the Spade: Startup Approaches to Transforming Labor Relations in Jordanian Archaeology

ACOR-CAORC Post-Doctoral Fellowship

Joel Burnett (Religion, Baylor University) The Monumentality of Kings and Gods: Sourcing the Basalts of Iron Age Monuments and Inscriptions in Jordan

Ian Jones (Anthropology, University of California, San Diego) Analysis and Final Publication of the Ceramics from the 'Abbasid Family Residence (Field F103) at al-Humayma, Southern Jordan

ACOR-CAORC Pre-Doctoral Fellowship

Morgen Chalmiers (Psychological and Medical Anthropology, University of California, San Diego) Local Intermediaries as Translators in Humanitarian Settings: An Ethnographic Study of Transformations in Gendered and Religious Subjectivities

Julia Gettle (History, Brown University) Beyond Nationalism, Marxism, and Islamism: A Social History of Popular Politics in Greater Syria, 1940–1975

Jeremy Reed (Ethnomusicology, Indiana University, Bloomington) The Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts as Indicator of Jordanian National Well-Being

Renee Spellman (Middle East and North African Studies, University of Arizona) Palestinian Women's Activism through Social Media: A Connective Ethnographic Study of the Taal'aat Movement

Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship

Katarina Mokranova (Graduate Student, Archaeology of the Near East, Leiden University), Analysis of the Early Islamic Pottery from Tell Abu Sarbut, Jordan (700–1000 C.E.)

Sarah Wenner (Graduate Student, Classical Archaeology, University of Cincinnati), Petraean Refuse Reuse

Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship

Veronika Poier (Graduate Student, Islamic Art and Architecture, Harvard University), Human Mobility and the Technical Parameters of Transmitting Traditional Syrian Stone Carving Methods

Harrell Family Fellowship

Luiza Silva (Graduate Student, Egyptian Archaeology, University of Chicago) Petra Terraces Archaeological Project

Burton MacDonald and Rosemarie Sampson Fellowship

Broderick MacDonald (Fellow at United Nations Alliance of Civilizations; Graduate Student (deferred), Oriental Studies, University of Oxford) Comparative Religion Research and Language Training

James A. Sauer Fellowship

Ana Silkatcheva (Graduate Student, University of Oxford, Oriental Studies) Geometric Patterns on Floor Mosaics of the Byzantine and Islamic Periods in the Levant

ACOR Jordanian Graduate Student Scholarship

Sodod Aljamahneh (Archaeology and Anthropology, Yarmouk University) Ancient North Arabian Inscriptions from Bayir, South-Eastern Jordan

Muhammad Allami (Archaeology and Anthropology, Yarmouk University) The Dated Greek Inscriptions from Ajloun Governate

Nidhal Jarrar (Architectural Conservation, German Jordanian University) Evaluation and Future Management of Jordan's Architectural/Industrial Heritage of Modernity: The Case of Rutenberg Power Plant, Baqoura, Jordan

Raneen Naimi (German Jordanian University, Architectural Conservation) Studying the Building Techniques of Capitolias Theater – Bayt Ras, North Jordan

Kenneth W. Russell Memorial Fellowship

Fadhiah Abu Ghrieganah (Graduate Student, Archaeology, Masaryk University) Settlement Patterns and Material Culture in Pre-Pottery Neolithic Sadr Yarqa

Frederick-Wenger Jordanian Educational Fellowship

Fadwa Al-Hasanat (Tourism Management, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University) The Impact of Tourist Guides' Cultural Intelligence on Tourist Satisfaction: A Study of Local Tourist Guides in Petra City

ACOR Jordanian Travel Scholarship for ASOR Annual Meeting

Mohammed Al-Shebli (Department of Antiquities) "The Conservation Project of al-Qatranah Archaeological Site—Restoration of the Ottoman Fort, Rehabilitation of the Ancient Water System, and New Insights on Its Urban Context"

Dana Salameen (Department of Antiquities) "The Documentation of Amman Heritage Houses Using EAMENA Methodology"

Fellows in Residence (July–December 2019)

CAORC Post-Doctoral Fellows

Kimberly Katz, History, Towson University; Law and Society: Jordanian Rule in the Hebron District, 1951–53

José Ciro Martínez, Politics, Trinity College, University of Cambridge; The Politics of Bread: Performing the State in Hashemite Jordan

Konstantinos D. Politis, Hellenic Society for Near Eastern Studies; Khirbet Qazone: A Nabataean to Early Christian Community on the South-Eastern Dead Sea Littoral

CAORC Pre-Doctoral Fellows

William Tamplin, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University; Apocalypticism in the Modern Jordanian Novel

Josephine Chaet, Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago; 'Homeland's Daughter, Everyone's Sister': Women's Organizations, Political Participation, and the Jordanian State

Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellow

Julia Maczuga, Islamic Archaeology, University of Bonn; Islamic Graffiti

TWL Publication Fellow

Pauline Piraud Fournet, University of Paris VI-Sorbonne/Institut français du Proche-Orient (resident in Amman)

Kimberly Katz (photo J. Green)

William Tamplin

Josephine Chaet

Julia Maczuga

Donations to ACOR (July–December 2019)

General Donations to the Annual Fund

Anne H. Aarnes; James and Judith Adams; Mitchell Allen; Ann Allison; Gregory and Dulcy Ambrosio; Björn Anderson; Roger S. Bagnall; William G. and Penelope K. Bardel; Barbara Bouwkamp; Laurie A. Brand; Nancy H. Broeder; Connie Christensen ; Douglas R. and Carmen L. Clark; Pearce Paul Creasman; Bonnie Lee Crosfield; Thomas W. Davis; Bert and Sally de Vries; Fred Donner; Peter and Kathy Dorman; Anne and Stewart Dunn in honor of Randolph B. Old; Stewart and Anne Dunn through the SAD Foundation; Edward Gnehm Jr.; Anna Gonosová; Martha Goodway; Bridget Guarasci and Mani Potnuru; John R. Hale; Timothy P. Harrison; Claire W. Henriques; Randall L. Hoffman; Paul and Brenda Katerberg; Donald Keller; Stanley Klassen; Cecily Klingman in memory of Anne C. Ogilvy; Sara M. Knight; Morley and Jim Knoll; Peter and Anna Levin; James and Judith Lipman; Helen Lovejoy; Nadya Lurey; Joan Porter MacIver and David Maciver in honor of Barbara A. Porter and Nisreen Abu Al Shaikh; Guillaume Malle; Elizabeth McCarthy; Renee Menard; Eugene and Janet Merrill; Gretchen Morgenson; Jenna de Vries Morton; Moors Myers in memory of Anne C. Ogilvy; David Nickols; Randolph B. and Josephine Old; Megan A. Perry; Earl Peterson; Meg Pickering and John Schmidt; Nanette Pyne in honor of Barbara A. Porter and Randolph B. Old; Jennifer Ramsay; Francis and Laura Randall; Benjamin Rauch and Margaret Scott; Suzanne Richard; Daniel Rubinstein in honor of Barbara A. Porter and Henry Wooster; Barbara C. Sampson and William L. Hamilton; Sandra A. Scham; Christine and Jim Schoettler; Audrey Shaffer; Seteney Shami; Robert Shutler; Joab Simon; Pamela H. Smith; Sandra R. Smith; Joseph T. Stanik; Sally B. Strazdins; Elizabeth Stryker; Tony and Gail Vander Heide; Andrew G. Vaughn; Nicholas and Patricia Veliotes; Bethany J. Walker; Daniel and Stefanie Walker; Terry Walz; Malcolm Wiener through the auspices of the Malcolm Hewitt Wiener Foundation; Patricia S. Worthington and James C. Dehnert

Annual Fund in honor of Barbara A. Porter

Talitha Arnold; Nancy Aronson; Kim Benzel; Annemarie Weyl Carr; Michel de Konkoly Thege and Harriette I. Resnick; Jonathan and Emme Deland; Robert J. and Jane F. Geniesse; Gemma S. Hall; Carol Harper; Prudence O. Harper; Spencer Harper III; Ellen Herscher; Charles O. and Ellen Porter Honnet; Linda K. Jacobs through the Violet Jabara Charitable Trust; Holly Mak and Marc Hersh; D. Patrick Maley and Nancy B. Turck; Anne Morgan and Brent Mashburn; Jenifer Neils; S. Thomas Parker; Ann Boon Rhea; Lita and Lola Semerad; Diana and Dan Sreebny; Lou Werner

Annual Fund Donations in memory of Paul R. Malik

Joseph A. Bruder IV; Nikolas Granger

Annual Fund Donations for Library Support

The Center for International Educational Exchange (CIEE); Michele Cloonan; Bert and Sally de Vries; Kimberly Katz; Nancy L. Lapp; Robert E. Mittelsteadt; Mohammed Sawaie; Denise Schmandt-Besserat; James Schryver; Donald B. Spanel in honor of Barbara A. Porter; Lucine Taminian

ACOR General Endowment

Ray Anita Hemphill in honor of Barbara A. Porter; Barbara A. Porter in memory of Tom and Marilyn Schaub; Daniel Rubinstein in honor of Barbara A. Porter and Henry Wooster; James Pokines through the Bucky Dent Foundation; Nancy Webster in honor of Barbara A. Porter; Wesley and Virginia Egan; Robert and Mette Beecroft; James R. and Margaret L. Wiseman

The Pierre and Patricia Bikai Fellowship Endowment

Cynthia Percak; Shari Saunders; Wesley and Virginia Egan

Bert and Sally de Vries Fellowship Endowment

Ray Anita Hemphill in honor of Barbara A. Porter; Connie and Roger Brummel in honor of Sally and Bert de Vries

Frederick-Wenger Jordanian Educational Fellowship Endowment

Barbara A. Porter in memory of Nan Frederick

Geraty Travel Scholarship Fund

Øystein LaBianca through the auspices of Andrews University; Lawrence T. Geraty through the auspices of La Sierra University

The Jennifer C. Groot Memorial Fellowship Endowment

Barbara A. Porter in memory of Gil Homan; Nancy L. Lapp; Stanley M. and Phemie C. Maxwell; S. Thomas Parker in honor of Barbara A. Porter

The Harrell Family Fellowship Endowment

Edgar and Paula Harrell; Brooke B. and Philip J. Harrell in honor of Ed and Paula Harrell; Elizabeth Lowe and Matthew Paul Harrell

Jordanian Graduate Student Scholarship Fund

James Callahan in memory of Suzan Long Callahn; Deborah Olszewski in memory of Nancy R. Coinman; Ann and R. Allen Irvine; Barbara A. Porter in memory of Paul Malik; Barbara A. Porter in memory of Mary Ellen Lane; Mohammed Sawaie; Sarah Harpending; Constance Murray in honor of Donald Henry of the University of Tulsa

Anne C. Ogilvy Memorial Library Endowment

James R. and Margaret L. Wiseman; Nancy L. Lapp; Thomas D. Cabot through the auspices of the Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation

The Kenneth W. Russell Memorial Fellowship Endowment

Steven Simms through the auspices of the Steven and Hadley Simms Giving Fund in memory of Kenneth W. Russell; Niel Bierling; Lysbeth A. Marigold and Skye Qi Marigold

The James A. Sauer Memorial Fellowship Endowment

Bonnie Lee Crosfield; Carol Landes in memory of George Landes; Nancy L. Lapp; Meg Pickering and John Schmidt; S. Thomas Parker in honor of Barbara A. Porter; Peter and Sylvia Sauer; Susan Sauer

TWLCRM Initiative

Jack Green and Akemi Horii; Benjamin P. Unger

Petra Church Conservation Iniative

Bill Slivka and Lisa Citron

In-Kind Donation to ACOR

Steve Meyer

Donations to the ACOR Library (July–December 2019)

The American Research Center in Egypt (through the auspices of Louise Bertini); Zaki Ayoubi; Kathleen Bailey; Andrea Barthello; Matthew V. Bender; Birzeit University (through the auspices of Ahmad Abu Hammad); Ghazi Bisheh; Bilal Fawwaz al-Boorini; Marc Van de Meiroop; Jordanian Department of Antiquities; Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (through auspices of Claudia Bührig); German Protestant Institute of Archaeology (through the auspices of Katharina Schmidt); Jack Green; Fadi Shawkat Haddad; Hani Hayajneh; Institut français du Proche-Orient (through the auspices of Sandrine Dewulf AlKhasawneh); Jordan Tour Guides Association (through the auspices of Raed Abd El Haq); Kimberley Katz; Sean V. Leatherbury; Ashley Lumb; Tamar Mosiashvili; Paul Newson; Michele Nucciotti; Ann O'Neil; Freie Universität Berlin Arabic Studies (through Beatrice Gründler and Ruslan Pavlyshyn); Nicolo Pini; Barbara A. Porter; Ekhlass Al-Qananweh; Robert Schick; Seteney Shami; Reem Samed Al-Shqour; Katharina Schmidt (GPIA); Margreet L. Steiner; Zeena Sultan; William Tamplin; Jane Taylor; Guido Vannini; Claude Vibert-Guigue and Héléne Eristov; Walter D. Ward; Thomas Weber; Sibylla Wolfgarten; Safaa Khaled Ismail Younis; The Society for Near Eastern Studies in Japan, in memory of H.I.H. Prince Takahito Mikasa

ACOR Building Renovation Project to be supported by USAID

On September 30, 2019, an agreement was signed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to authorize a grant for the renovation of ACOR's purpose-built center in Amman that was first opened in 1986 and expanded in 2005. The renovation project, which is being implemented by the United Nations Offices for Project Services (UNOPS), is aimed at providing design and rehabilitation of our six-story building, with enhancements to safety and security, disability access, gender sensitivity, and use of innovative technologies to help improve its use and reduce operating costs. The project will enhance ACOR's furniture and equipment in its seminar, library, archives, study, and storage spaces. There will also be some improvements to offices, lounge and dining areas, kitchens, and residential spaces. The project is scheduled to last for three years from the signing date, with its main phase of implementation taking place between summer 2020 and summer 2021. During the project, ACOR intends to maintain operability as far as possible; however, there will be periods of disruption and reduced service. During the renovation period it is suggested that any inquiries for hostel or space bookings, equipment rental, or storage access be made directly to reservations@acorjordan.org as far in advance as is possible.

ACOR exterior with Khirbet as-Salameh in the foreground, 2018 (photo by Steve Meyer)

ACOR's Annual Report for 2019 is now online at:
www.acorjordan.org/annualreports

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Your support keeps ACOR going. To donate to ACOR, you can mail a check to our U.S. office or donate via credit card on our website, www.acorjordan.org.

November 2019 Board Meeting

The ACOR Board of Trustees' fall meeting took place at The Westin San Diego on November 23 in conjunction with the ASOR Annual Meeting. This was the last meeting presided over by Board President Randolph B. Old. Ambassador Edward "Skip" Gnehm is appointed as his successor. Pearce Paul Creasman was appointed the next ACOR Director. Edward Gnehm stepped down as Chair of the Nominating Committee, with S. Thomas Parker replacing him. Condolences were expressed to the family of Board Member Mary Ellen Lane (Class of 2020), who died in early November. At this meeting, Björn Anderson was elected to complete the final year of Mary Ellen Lane's three-year term. ACOR's Mission Statement was updated. Reports were given to the Board by Rick Spees and Glenn Corbett of CAORC, as well as by ASOR President Susan Ackerman, who introduced ASOR President Elect Sharon Herbert. Jack Green presented on ACOR Projects and Building Renovation plans (UNOPS). A UNOPS oversight committee was formed with David Nickols as Chair. Nizar Al Adarbeh presented on USAID SCHEP.

ACOR Trustees

Class of 2020: Mrs. Anne H. Aarnes (Secretary); Mr. Ahmad Abu Ghazaleh; Dr. Björn Anderson; Mr. Geoff Coll; H.E. Mr. Claus Gielisch; H. E. Mr. Edward W. Gnehm, Jr.; Dr. Mary Ellen Lane; Mrs. Jenna de Vries Morton; Mr. David Nickols (Treasurer); Mr. Randolph B. Old (President); Dr. S. Thomas Parker (Second Vice President)

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