



Workmen Remove Awning from Front of the Museum.



Antiquarian Society Luncheon and Bedouin Tent.

Clark Lecture

Douglas Clark, instructor of archaeology at La Sierra University and codirector of the Madaba Plains Project — ‘Umayri, presented an illustrated lecture for the Horn Museum Lecture Series on October 23, 2006 entitled *Religious and Domestic Life at the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age Tall al-‘Umayri, Jordan*.

Tall al-‘Umayri is one of the three main sites being excavated by the Madaba Plains Project, including Talls Jalul and Hisban. The most recent (2006 season) at ‘Umayri was the 11th since its beginning in 1984, and there have been numerous interesting finds since then.

Representing domestic life at Tall al-‘Umayri is an Iron Age four-room house which has been partially reconstructed with modern beams and also depicted artistically by Rhonda Root of Andrews University. Inside the house, the badly burned bones of four humans have been found which will soon undergo DNA testing to help determine their relationship to one another. The house appears to have been destroyed in the same conflict in which the humans perished. Also found there are approximately 200 artifacts, largely related to food production and storage, as well a small number related to cloth production. There has been an attempt to reconstruct 50 (and possibly as

many as 75) 3-foot tall storage jars that have been found at the site. In a large garbage dump outside the house hundreds of bones were found, including those of a 4.5-foot long Nile perch, which give some indication of the extent of trade during this time. Other sources of potential trade are seen in the large number of bottle-stoppers that give an indication of wine production in this region.

The two-story four-room house would have been built of stone, wooden beams, reeds from the Jordan valley, lime plaster and mud brick. The gravity measurements of this building including the building stones, lime plaster, and mortar for bricks is about 450 tons. This attempt at reconstruction is possible because of the 100 other four-room houses found in this region by which comparisons can be made.

Representing religious life at Tall al-‘Umayri is an interesting cultic installation consisting of several standing stones along with figurines and libation utensils in a building which is currently being referred to as a temple/palace. One of the difficulties in defining this structure is that the sanctuary lies lower than the rest of the structures surrounding it. Typically, a sanctuary is the high place of the settlement. Kent Bramlett, a PhD student at University of Toronto, is working on this structure for his dissertation. In his research, by comparing Late Bronze Age temples, he has found that not only

are there architectural themes that remain consistent, but that irregularities are the rule rather than the exception.

Among the other finds at Tall al-‘Umayri over the years are the famous Baalis seal and about 110 other seals and seal impressions. Early Iron Age figures of body parts including an ear, lips, an eye, toes of a foot, and a shoulder have been found. This site has revealed a number of Hellenistic as well as a few Ptolemaic coins. During the 2006 season, over 400 objects were found which included at large number of jar handles with potters' marks on them. (Carrie Rhodes)



Douglas Clark.