

was also able to visit sites such as Enkomi and Salamis on the northern side of the island presently controlled by Turkey. The Turks had just opened up the border to Greeks, making the crossing much easier. Our American group did not even have to show our passports when leaving and entering the Greek side.

We then flew to Athens where we saw the tremendous preparation that is being made in anticipation of the thousands of visitors coming to see the famous archaeological sites in Athens during the Olympic Games next summer. We then put our vehicles aboard a ferry and sailed to Crete where we spent several days exploring sites and museums related to the Minoan culture. Highlights included Knossos, the Herakleion Archaeological Museum, the Archanes cemetery at Phourni, the Minoan Villa at Vathypetro, the Minoan shrine at Juktas where human sacrifices were performed, Malia, Gournia, Agia Triada (Minoan), Phaestos (where the famous Phaestos disk was found), and the Villa of the Lilies at Amnissos, the harbor of Knossos.

The group then sailed back to Greece where a thorough exploration of the length and breadth of Greece was undertaken. Sites included, Marathon, Mt. Olympus, Thessalonika, Philippi, Kavala, Berea (Verea), Thermopylae (where the 300 Spartans under King Leonidas died, defending the Greek army against the

Persians). We also explored Athens, Corinth, Mycenae and other important sites. The trip ended with a visit (again by ferry) to the Island of Patmos, where the Apostle John wrote the book of Revelation. We discovered that for 10 Euros per person we could tour the island on rented scooters. Besides the Greek monastery and the traditional cave of John, we explored the acropolis above Skala. The walls of this site date to the Hellenistic period, and the ground was covered with Late period (Hellenistic and perhaps later sherds). This site could have been in use during the Roman period (John's time). (Randall W. Younker)



Graham on Moab

Andrew Graham, a Ph. D. candidate at the University of Toronto, presented an illustrated lecture for the Horn Museum lectureship series on Feb. 10, 2003. Graham has excavated in Greece and Jordan, where he has worked as an Area Supervisor for the Tell Madaba Archaeological Project as well as being the Director of the Mukhayyat Mapping Project. His dissertation topic is the economic structure of Moab and the reason for his visit to the Institute of Archaeology was to compare Jalul pottery with other sites in the region.



Andrew Graham at Madaba, Jordan

Graham's lecture was entitled *Showdown at Moab*. Philosophically, he believes that all war is linked to the competition (access to or control) of resources. Ancient Moab was rich agriculturally, and for this reason contested for the control of its resources throughout its history. The archaeological history of Moab indicates that the defense of its borders and the control of its agricultural land were of great importance to both the Moabites and the competing polities of the region. In reality, unless there was a natural topographical boundary the frontiers between ancient peoples were always in flux. A good example is Moab's northern border, which was particularly fluid, and located in an area that was also claimed, throughout history, by the Amorites, the Ammonites, and various tribes of Israelites. Madaba was probably the largest Iron Age II site in the area with a 7.00 m wide fortification wall, parallel to Hezekiah's broad wall in Jerusalem, recently found in the excavations there. Other sites in the region incorporated dry moats on one or more sides of their fortification systems, or built sloping *glacis* or casemate walls



Lions Gate at Mycenae, Greece

and six-chambered gates.

After the Late Bronze Age, both the Hittites and Egypt went into decline allowing for the polities, on both sides of the Jordan River, to develop to a new level of complexity. Multiple conflicts are known in this region. Shishak's invasion in 925 B.C. was for the purpose of weakening both Judah and Israel and to destroy the lucrative trade network that linked goods from Africa and Arabia via the Gulf of Aqaba and the Negev, where he destroyed numerous sites, to Judah. These trade routes were the financial backbone of the economy of Judah. Moab, in the meantime, had been a vassal to Israel, under David and Solomon, and then under the northern kingdom of Israel in the early years of the divided monarchy.

Shishak's invasion must have significantly weakened Israel, because at some point before end of the reign of Ahab, Moab began to assert itself. The Omride response was to place new levies on Moab. Hence, Mesha rebelled and took back northern Moab, fortifying it extensively. Israel, needing the tribute from this rich agricultural land to help fund its expansionist policies, chose to come with its ally (Judah and their vassal Edom) and retake Moab. Since northern Moab was so well-fortified, the attack came from the south at Kir Hareseth (2 Kgs 3). The battle ended in a stalemate, with Mesha sacrificing his son and Israel with its allies leaving for an unspecified reason (2 Kgs 3:26-27). That reason, Graham suggests, was the coming of Assyrians, which was a more pressing threat. (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)

