

(Award cont'd)

successful blending of traditional biblical archaeology concerns with those of “the new archaeology.”

The Madaba Plains Project, which Geraty launched together with Larry Herr and Øystein S. LaBianca in 1982, was a direct outgrowth of the Heshbon Expedition in the sense that the project was launched in order to answer numerous questions that had come to light in the process of preparing the final reports on the excavations. With its regional focus, its concern with long-term cultural change patterns, and its multi-disciplinary staff, the Madaba Plains Project sought to implement a vision of the best practices in fieldwork and laboratory procedures based on lessons learned in the course of fieldwork at Tall Hisban.

Of Larry Geraty's many contributions to ASOR, ACOR and the Madaba Plains Project, none have been more critical to the advance of field archaeology in Jordan and beyond than his masterful accomplishments as a team builder, consensus maker, and facilitator of the scholarly work of his students and colleagues. His leadership on various ASOR committees, the ACOR Board and the Madaba Plains Project has helped to open doors for literally hundreds of students from Jordan, the United States, and many other countries to pursue their dreams of doing archaeology in the Holy Land.

It is thus a sincere pleasure to recognize Larry Geraty for his outstanding career as a builder of archaeologists and archaeological teams, as a promoter of cutting-edge research among his students and colleagues, and as a statesman in representing the interests of ASOR archaeologists to the broader public, with this presentation of the P. E. MacAllister Field Archaeology Award! (modified from the citation by Øystein S. LaBianca, presented at ASOR Awards Committee on Nov. 17, 2000).



ASOR 2000

This year's annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research was held in Nashville, TN near Vanderbilt University. The Society of Biblical Literature and the Near East Archaeological Society met at the Opryland Hotel.

Members of the Madaba Plains Project who chaired sessions for the meetings were Douglas Clark (Plenary Session as well as the MPP Staff consultation and reception); Tim Harrison (Symposium on Recent Research in the Madaba Plains Region of Jordan I); Larry Herr (Symposium on Recent Research in the Madaba Plains Region of Jordan II); Dave Merling (Individual Submissions); and Judith Cochran (Outreach Education Teacher's Workshop).

MPP members and affiliates who presented papers or poster sessions included Rhonda Root (Artist's Report on MPP 2000); Michele Daviau (Gate and Moabite Temple at Khirbat al-Mudayna); and A Temple for Moab: Discoveries at Khirbat al-Mudayna); Richard Dorsett (Music of the Madaba Plains, Jordan); Larry Herr and Douglas Clark (Tall al-'Umayri 2000 Season); Judith Cochran (The Archaeological Process: Interpreting Personal Artifacts, co-authored); and The Archaeological Process: A Hands-On Approach); Chang-Ho Ji (The Dhiban Plateau Project, 1999: The Versacare Expedition); and Bethany Walker (Muslim Images of the Holy Land: Ibn Battuta's Rihla in Bilad al-Sham). (Paul J. Ray, Jr.)



MacDonald at Andrews

On October 23, 2000 Burton MacDonald spoke for the Horn Archaeological Museum Lectureship. He is Director of Tafila-Busayra Archaeological Survey and professor of Religion at St. Francis Xavier University, Nova



Michael Hasel reading a paper with Dave Merling presiding.

Scotia, Canada. His lecture was a report on his recent survey work (2000) entitled: *The Tafila-Busayra Archaeological Survey, West-Central Jordan (TBAS)*.

The area surveyed is often referred to as Edomite territory. The project investigated an area of approximately 480 sq. km in west-central Jordan in the region from just west of At-Tafila and Busayra to just north of Jurf ad-Darawish in the east to the edge of the escarpment of the Rift Valley and the SE plain of the Dead Sea. This region represents the territory immediately to the south and east of that which the Wadi al-Hasa Archaeological Survey (WHS 1979-1983) and the Southern Ghors and Northeast 'Arabah Archaeological Survey (SGNAS 1985-1986) previously reported by MacDonald.

The primary objective of the project was to search for archeological sites and to connect geographically with the territory of both the WHS and the SGNAS. The survey area was divided into three topographical zones that included 1) the gorges; 2) the Edomite Plateau; and 3) the desert region. To serve as a hinterland, a 3 km radius was surveyed around Busayra (the Edomite capital). In addition, the survey “ground-proofed” potential sites identified on aerial photographs by D. Kennedy from the University of Western

Australia, Perth, and investigated the archaeological materials around two Pleistocene lakes in the Jurf ad-Darawish.

MacDonald adopted the MPP Survey methodology developed by Gary Christophersen of University of Arizona, who randomly selected the squares. Larry Herr of Canadian Union College read the pottery. For each zone the randomly selected squares were 500x500 sq. m and 200x200 sq. m for Busayra.

The team pedestrian transects each square after using GPS to find the corner. Five people stretched out along 250 m walking in one direction then shifting the other way. They look for evidence of human occupation such as sherds, lithics, glass, and slag. Careful record was kept on survey sheets and all artifacts were tagged and bagged on site.

The team discovered 49 enclosures/seasonal camps with architecture, 26 of them being major architectural sites. These include many watchtowers and four possible forts. In addition, 12 seasonal camps/production/processing centers were found along Pleistocene lakes in the Jurf ad-Darawish area.

The Chalcolithic period is well represented by both lithics and sherds but the area appears to have had no Bronze Age occupation. Though some evidence of Iron I exists, the best-represented materials come from Iron Age II, the Early Roman (Nabataean), and Byzantine periods. There is little in the way of Early Islamic materials, but the Middle/Late Islamic period is well represented, especially at major agricultural sites. (Robert D. Bates)



Burton MacDonald

