

ition was constructed to separate the two rooms. It was not as substantial as the external walls and does not seem to be founded on bedrock. Along with this wall, a new east wall was added to the south room, which was likewise not founded on bedrock. The western wall of the room, to which a door jamb was now attached, was built on a more diminutive level than the original. On the north side of the partition wall, a bin and a silo were added. During a later phase in the Mamluk period, another bin was added along the southern side of the partition wall.

Eventually, the structure went out of use and the rooms filled with fallen stones and earth up to the surface, whether from a sudden destruction or gradual abandonment is unknown at this point.

While more work is necessary to fully understand the date and function of this structure, everything found so far is consistent with a residential unit or even a khan. There were pens and bins for animals and grain storage, as well as tethering holes. The ceramics represent the full range of functions of a residential unit for food preparation and consumption. Stone food preparation tools, textile tools and a couple of Arabic ostraca were also found. (Randall W. Younker)



Salem Lecture

On Nov 12, 2007 Dr. Hamed Salem, Assistant Professor of Archaeology at Birzeit University, in Palestine, lectured on "The Current State of Archaeology in the Palestinian Territories" at Andrews University.

Dr. Salem began by presenting some background information on Palestine (the West Bank). The country is a little over 2,300 miles in area. Surveys have revealed at least 3,000 archaeological sites, over one per sq. mile. Sites such as Tell es-Sultan (biblical Jericho) and Bethlehem are located here. These and 24 other sites have been excavated in the West Bank over the last 100 years as well as over 900 small-scale and salvage digs.



Hamed Salem.

Salem went on to discuss important Palestinian archaeologists such as Demetri Baramki. Born in Jerusalem in 1919, he worked as Chief Inspector in the Palestinian Department of Antiquities until 1948, excavating 48 sites, including Khirbat al-Mafjar. He joined the American University in Beirut in 1951 and began an archaeological program focused on training and field work, the first in the Arab world. Baramki was the first Palestinian to receive a Ph.D in archaeology. Rafik Dajani was the first Jordanian of Palestinian descent to receive a Ph.D in archaeology. He worked under Kenyon at Jericho in the 1950s and later became the Director of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.

After 1967, the role of Palestinian archaeologists in the West Bank was reduced to laborers and in some cases inspectors. However, most inspectors did not receive a proper education. To remedy this situation, Birzeit University began a program in archaeology in 1978, the first of its kind in Palestine. In 1994 the Palestinian Department of Antiquities was founded. These two accomplishments have led to a revitalization of Palestinian archaeology. Much of the current archaeological work consists of salvage projects centered around new construction, especially near the Separation Wall being built around the West Bank. Foreign universities are still excavating in the West Bank at such sites as Qumran in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities. Over 20 major projects have been in progress since 1994 with active

participation from Palestinian archaeology students.

Dr. Salem next discussed the history of archaeological research at Birzeit University. Its first project was at Tell Tanaach, the finds of which are housed at the university. Tell Jenin was excavated between 1980-1984 and was used as a training school for archaeology students, the first of its kind in Palestine. A unique donkey burial was found at the site and considerable restorable pottery from the Early and Late Bronze Ages. Cultural landscape work is being done around the university. This work consists of three aspects: surveys, excavations, and ethnographic studies. A regional survey of the area has been ongoing since the early 1990s. In a 617-acre area, 22 settlements were discovered dating from the Early Bronze Age through modern times, although no remains from the Middle or Late Bronze Age have been found so far. The main period of occupation was the Byzantine period due to a pilgrimage route that ran through the area.

Dr. Salem concluded his lecture by discussing problems facing Palestinian archaeology today. The main issue is education. Due to a lack of funds, most serious archaeology students get their degrees abroad. Due to funding issues and the current political situation, jobs are limited. These facts limit the number of Palestinian archaeologists as well as archaeological work in Palestine. The lack of tourism and the fiscal problems on the government/administrative level have led to sites falling into disrepair. All of these factors contribute to a lack of awareness on the part of the general public. When average Palestinians don't understand the importance of the archaeological remains, it can lead to accidental destruction of the material culture. Because the main value of archaeological remains is seen to be monetary rather than historical or cultural, there is also an increase in looting. Despite these struggles, there is still a future for Palestinian archaeology. (Owen Chesnut)

