

Activity in Transjordan (Kent Bramlett); Athenodorus of Tarsus and Petra: The Date and Circumstance of His Visit (David Graf); Preserving Jordan's Cultural Heritage Digitally through ETANA (Douglas Clark); Cremation Practices in the Levant: Candlestick Stands in Situ (Adeib Abu-Shmais); Between the Cults of Syria and Arabia: Pagan Traces at Umm el-Jimal (Bert de Vries); Emergence of Madaba as a Regional Center in the Early Iron Age (Timothy Harrison); Nabataeans, Hasmonaeans, Herodians in 'Atrauz, Dhiban, and Madaba (Chang-Ho Ji); Imperial Transitions and Peasant Society in Middle and Late Islamic Jordan (Bethany Walker); The Contribution of Andrews University to Jordanian Archaeology (Randall Younker); The Foundation of Aila: A Nabataean Port on the Red Sea (Thomas Parker); The Aqaba Castle Project: New Excavation Facts (Reem Shqour); Inhabited Vine and Mould-made Lamps in Late Byzantine and Early Islamic Periods (Michèle Daviau); The Iron I Period Across Jordan (Larry Herr); Who Peopled the Madaba Plains in the Iron Age? (Lawrence Geraty); The Druze Experience at Umm al-Jimal: the History and Archaeology of the Early 20th-century Settlement (Robin Brown); and Feasts in Late Second Millennium B.C.E. at Tall al-'Umayri (Gloria London).

Receptions were held at the Jordan Embassy and the Smithsonian Museum hosted by HRH Ambassador Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini and Dr. Fawwaz al-Khraysheh, the Director of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan. (Paul J. Ray, Jr)



Wolff Lecture

Dr. Sam Wolff, of the Israel Antiquities Authority and editor of the journal *Atiqot*, presented a lecture entitled "Tel Megadim: A Multi-period Site on the Carmel Coast, Israel" on January 17, 2007 at Andrews University.

Tel Megadim (Tel Seḥar), located on the Carmel Coast of Israel, is 35 ha in size, and is cut by both a highway and a railroad. The site was first surveyed by Ron Gophrad who identified pottery from the Early Bronze Age, Early Bronze Age IV, Middle Bronze Age, and Persian periods. Three seasons of excavations took place at Megadim by Magen Broshi from 1967-69, at which time the Persian strata and some Byzantine period material were revealed on top of the mound.

Dr. Wolff began excavating at Megadim in 1994. He opened up a 185 m long by 8 m wide strip along the railroad and also made a cut across the site, revealing the occupational history.

The earliest material, including ceramic and stone vessel fragments, was from the Chalcolithic period. The largest settlement at the site dates to Early Bronze Age 1B (3000-2800 BC). Architectural remains of curvilinear, rectangular, and round-corner buildings were found. The curvilinear building was filled with bow-rimmed pithoi. The contents of the jars have been dated to the 29th century BC on the basis of C¹⁴ dating.

The next phase is the Early Bronze Age IV. This is a period that is not well-represented on tells. However, at Megadim there is evidence of occupation in the form of pottery and bones on top of which a wall was built. A pottery kiln that was cut by a Middle Bronze IIA pit, was also found. Its closest parallel, found at Tel el-Farah, dated to the Early Bronze Age II.

From the Middle Bronze Age, circular structures, walls, a silo, and tombs have been revealed. The tomb remains are very impressive and date to all phases (MB II A, B and C) of the period. There were 3 large multiburial tombs, 11 masonry tombs, and 5 jar burials. In one of the large tombs, which had a corbeled roof, an alabastra, dipper juglets and Cypriot jugs were found. The individual burials date to MB IIA. Levantine painted wares, with parallels to the north, were also found in these tombs.

The Late Bronze Age finds include walls and a flagstone floor along with 160



Sam Wolff.

pieces of Cypriot pottery, indicating trade and exchange in this region. The Iron Age is not represented at Megadim.

The Persian period was uncovered in many rooms during Broshi's excavation. Wolff found more rooms, a kurkar stone altar (with parallels at Tel Dor), tabuns, horse-and rider-figurines, mortaria, and basket-handle amphorae. There is also Corinthian pottery, which is unique in Israel. The ceramic finds, mostly amphorae, include Attic ware, Carthagian, North Aegean, Chian, Samian, Milesian (East Greek bowls), South Aegean, Central Ionian, and Cypriot wares. Most of the amphorae were found in the same general area, though none of the typical Palestinian forms such as the basket-handled amphorae or twisted-handled jars were found.

One of the things that helped Dr. Wolff put these finds into context was the Aḥiqar Papyrus which dates to 5th century BC. The papyrus describes trade coming from Ionia to Elephantine in Egypt. The main export was natron, which was used for making medicines, manufacturing glass, and leaching textiles. A similar situation might have brought wares from these regions to Megadim.

Post-Persian-period structures include a circular installation that cuts some Persian-period walls. It has been suggested on the basis of parallel structures

that it is a lime-kiln, but there is no limestone at Megadim.

The Byzantine-period finds discovered earlier by Broshi include large paved areas, pottery, coins and glass. There does not appear to be anything distinctly from the Roman period at Megadim. Broshi connected this site with a 4th-century AD account by the Bordeaux Pilgrim, who mentions a horse-trading station 9 Roman miles south of Shiqmona, which is located in modern Haifa. (Carrie Rhodes)

