



Chris Chadwick with open-house tour.

bull-man, winged-bull, and human-headed bull. Four different kinds of fish are known: a merman, mermaid, fish-cloaked being, and goat fish. There are also several varieties of lion: a lion-dragon griffin, winged lion-creature, lion-demon, lion-man/humanoid, lion-headed emblem, winged lion, and sphinx. In addition, there are other mythical creatures such as centaurs, canine-headed demons, ibex, scorpion-man, and a snake-like dragon.

Jonathan Peinado spoke on "The Neo-Babylonian Dowry and its Impact on Widowhood." The dowry agreement and the widow's settlement determined to a large extent the future economic status of a widow. The purpose of the dowry was to establish a new household, be a financial support for the widow, and to act as an inheritance for her children. Outside of the dowry and settlement the widow had to rely on the temple for food and shelter for her children if they were married.

Chris Chadwick spoke on "Babylonian Mathematics." Mathematical cuneiform texts date back to the 4th millennium BC. Mathematical principles were developed by the Babylonians to aid with agriculture, astronomy, and building techniques. Place value notation, or the place that a digit occupies in a certain numeral, is one of the first mathematical inventions of the Babylonians. Babylonian numeration is based on the sexagesimal system (units of 60) as

opposed to most other systems which are based on units of 10. There were three types of mathematical tablets: 1) table texts; 2) problem texts; and 3) coefficient texts.

The final presentation was by Marcella Morales entitled "Understanding Babylon Through Visual Art: A Photo Essay of Iraq and its People." This featured pictures covering general history, culture, the Iraqi War, and archaeology.

The presentations were followed by an open house at the Horn Archaeological Museum. (Owen Chesnut)



Jesus Tomb

Dr. Randy Younker and Paul Ray of the Institute of Archaeology lectured on "The Tomb of Jesus" on March 13, 2007. This lecture was a response to the documentary done by Simcha Jacobovici and James Cameron. Dr. Younker began by discussing the background on the tomb (found in 1980) and the recent attention it has received. The 1st Century AD tomb contained 10 ossuaries (bone boxes), 6 of which had inscriptions, one with the name "Jesus son of Joseph."

Younker went on to discuss the inscriptions, why they are potentially important, and the problems with the documentary's case. The 6 inscriptions carry biblical names (Mariamne, Judah son of Jesus, Matthew, Jesus son of Joseph, Jose or Joseph, and Mary). The ossuaries were examined and catalogued at the Rockefeller Museum and then stored. They were later published in a catalogue. The documentary claims that these ossuaries contained Jesus and his family.

The film made several somewhat inflammatory statements including: 1) Jesus is the Jesus of the NT, based on the combination of the names Jesus and Joseph, which is very rare; 2) the Latinized form (Mary) of the Hebrew name Maria is also rare; 3) that Mariamne Mare is a name only applied to Mary Magdalene and the DNA samples from the Mary and Jesus ossuaries showed that

they were not related, and hence were husband and wife; and 4) that the 10th ossuary was lost or stolen and only recently found on the antiquities market, bearing the inscription "James son of Joseph, brother of Jesus."

Younker says that nearly 3000 names of the 1st Century AD have been studied. Among them, Jesus appears 99 times in inscriptions (22 times on ossuaries). According to statistical analysis there would be 20 people named Jesus with a father named Joseph and a brother named James. Mary is the most popular female name. The name Mariamne Mare is an incorrect reading of the inscription, which should read "Mary and Martha." These names refers to one woman who is known by two names in two different languages. Ossuary #10 had neither inscription or decorations on it, so due to its lack of importance was put in the garden of the Rockefeller Museum. Hence, it was never lost and could not be the James ossuary.

Dr. Ray noted that the remains of 17 people were found in the 10 ossuaries. He also showed that the size of the 10th ossuary is different than that of the James Ossuary and while the former was plain, the latter has rosettes. He went on to discuss tomb typologies from the Iron Age through the Roman period. For ca. 100 years (30 BC to AD 70) ossuaries were used, especially around Jerusalem. Jews at this time were concerned about the resurrection of the dead and wanted to have their individual bones separated from their relatives. There are two traditional places that have laid claim to being the burial place of Christ (not His final resting place). The so-called Garden Tomb is part of a series of tombs that date to Iron Age II. It was later modified in the Byzantine period, so it is both too early and too late. The other is a 1st century AD loculi tomb within the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. This tomb fits the biblical account very well. In the Gospels Jesus was laid on a bench, wrapped in a cloth with spices, and never moved before he rose from the dead. (Owen Chesnut)

