

## AN ANDREWS UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UPDATE: THE 1984 EXPEDITION TO TELL EL-<sup>c</sup>UMEIRI

In this issue of *AUSS*, we are pleased to present a preliminary report of the work and discoveries of the 1984 Andrews University Archaeological Expedition to Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri in Jordan. This report, which includes a topographical map and nineteen photographs, has been provided by Lawrence T. Geraty, director of the expedition. Geraty, a professor of OT and the Curator of the Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Museum at Andrews University (as well as an Associate Editor of *AUSS*), also directed the final two seasons of Andrews-University-sponsored archaeological work at Heshbon. (For a rather comprehensive description of the results at Heshbon, see *AUSS* 16 [1978]: 1-303, and the more than forty photographs in a section of plates inserted after p. 303.)

A shorter second article herein, by OT scholar William H. Shea, highlights an item that is perhaps the most extraordinary find of the season at Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri: It is a cone-shaped lump of clay with a seal impression bearing two Ammonite names from ca. 600 B.C.—that of a servant of a certain Ammonite king, and the name of the king himself. The name of the king, interestingly enough, is found also in a biblical passage, Jer 40:14; but there it appears in a form that is substantially altered from the way in which it occurs on the seal impression. Shea proposes a possible solution to the problem created by this discrepancy.

As our long-term readers will undoubtedly notice, our procedure here in reporting the results of this 1984 Andrews-University-sponsored archaeological dig in Jordan differs from our manner of reporting the five seasons of work at Heshbon. Rather than reporting these new excavations through such very detailed, data-packed, and lengthy write-ups as we did for Heshbon, we will plan to inform our readers in a more succinct and generalized way (comparable to Geraty's preliminary report herein) of the main developments of each season at this new site. (The seasons of work at Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri, incidentally, are projected for alternate years.) Also, whenever there are especially striking finds, and as the information becomes available concerning them and their possible significance, we will plan to incorporate short articles or brief scholarly notes to alert our readers to the discoveries and to their importance and meaning.

Reports with greater detail about each season's work at Tell el-<sup>c</sup>Umeiri are, of course, planned; and in due time, such reports will appear in appropriate publications. Information concerning the availability of, and procedure for securing, such reports may be obtained from the Institute of Archaeology, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49104, U.S.A.

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