

HESHBON EXPEDITION 25TH-ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On March 20-21, scholars and friends of archaeology gathered on the campus of Andrews University for a symposium, "Tell Hesban after 25 Years: Continuity and Change on the Madaba Plains of Jordan." To celebrate 25 years of archaeological excavations by Andrews University, participants presented papers summarizing the results of the five field seasons at Tell Hesban. The occasion coincided with the 85th birthday of Siegfried H. Horn, first director of the Heshbon Expedition.

The list of participants, their affiliation and their papers follow: Safwan Kh. Tell, Director General of Antiquities, Jordan, "The Contributions of American-sponsored Excavations in Jordan"; Siegfried H. Horn, Professor Emeritus, Andrews University, "How It All Began—The Early History of the Heshbon Archaeological Expedition"; Roger S. Boraas, Professor Emeritus of Religion, Upsala College, "Hesban and Field Method—How We Dug and Why"; Bert de Vries, Professor of History, Calvin College, "The Mamluk Town (Caravanserai, Bath, Mosque)"; James R. Fisher, Director, Office of Scholarly Research, Andrews University, "Hesban and the Ammonites during the Iron Age"; Lawrence T. Geraty, President, Atlantic Union College, "Tell Hesban in Context—Why We Dig"; Robert D. Ibach, Jr., Library Director, Dallas Theological Seminary, "Two Roads Lead to Esbus"; Øystein S. LaBianca, Professor of Anthropology, Andrews University, "Hesban and the Scope of Research—the Transformation of the Project Design"; John I. Lawlor, Professor of Old Testament Studies, Baptist Bible Seminary, "The Historical/Archaeological Significance of the Hesban North Church"; David Merling, Curator, Horn Archaeological Museum, Andrews University, "The Pools of Heshbon: As Discovered by the Heshbon Expedition"; Larry A. Mitchel, Director of Strategic Planning, Adventist Health System/West, "Hesban Underground: Caves and Storage Facilities of Hellenistic and Early Roman Times"; Elizabeth E. Platt, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, "What Objects Were Found at Tell Hesban?"; James A. Sauer, Curator, Harvard Semitic Museum, "The Pottery of Tell Hesban"; Bjørnar Storfjell, Professor of Archaeology and History of Antiquity, Andrews University, "The Byzantine Setting of Hesban"; Bastiaan Van Elderen,

Professor of New Testament Emeritus, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, "Tell Hesban's Contribution to the Study of Early Christianity in Transjordan"; S. Douglas Waterhouse, Professor of Religion, Andrews University, "The Roman and Byzantine Cemeteries"; Randall W. Younker, Director, Institute of Archaeology, Andrews University, "Hesban and Its Location—Broad Significance."

The symposium was in many ways a reunion for those who had had a significant role in the Heshbon Expedition. At the Saturday evening banquet held in honor of Siegfried H. Horn, Walter E. Rast, representing the American Schools of Oriental Research, brought greetings from that organization. Dr. Horn then presented his keynote address, relating his early life of research and travel, which ultimately led him to begin the excavations at Tell Hesban in 1968, when he was 60 years old. For many this banquet with Dr. Horn's lecture was the highlight of the entire symposium.

Participants were also honored to have Safwan Kh. Tell give the opening lecture for the symposium. His presence and participation were evidence of the friendship between the Department of Antiquities in Jordan and Andrews University, and the many hours spent with him revealed him to be an esteemed scholar and friend.

The lectures from the "Heshbon Expedition XXVTH Anniversary Celebration" are being edited into a book, expected to be available in the fall. This book, which will include the lectures and illustrative materials, will serve as a one-volume reference to the Tell Hesban excavations. A book signing is scheduled for the Madaba Plains Project reception to be held during the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research, November 1993, Washington, D.C.

The co-directors of this symposium, James R. Fisher and David Merling, wish to thank the Michigan Humanities Council for the generous grant that, combined with Andrews University funds, made this project possible. In addition, we wish to thank the Andrews University administrators who took part in this symposium: W. Richard Leshner, President; Delmer I. Davis, Vice President for Academic Administration; Arthur O. Coetzee, Provost for Strategic Planning; and Werner K. Vyhmeister, Dean, Theological Seminary.