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 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 Lesher, President; Delmer I. Davis, Vice President for Academic Administration; Arthur O. Coetzee, Provost for Strategic Planning; and Werner K. Vyhmeister, Dean, Theological Seminary.

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